Aetas told to abandon Pinatubo canal mission

Story on Page A2

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Erring motorists filmed

LISENSYA HO NATIN SIR!
TSIP, PWEDENG TAKE 2?

By Stella Gonzales

TAGAYTAY CITY—Policemen here now have more reason to be strict in enforcing traffic rules. They are now "armed" with a video camera to record traffic offenders.

ERRING/ A18

WHAT'S INSIDE

Banks to raise $400M for RP
BUSINESS / B1
Israel mounts missile attack
WORLD / A11
Oil depot explosion warned
METRO / A23
Drugs bigger threat than kidnap
ACROSS / A15

2 Sino hostages killed

QC hotel owner set to yield

By Philip C. Tubeza and Martin P. Marfil

AS THE owner of the Quezon City Manor Hotel, where at least 72 people were killed in a pre-dawn fire on Saturday, prepared to turn himself in, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered government agencies to cooperate in the investigation.

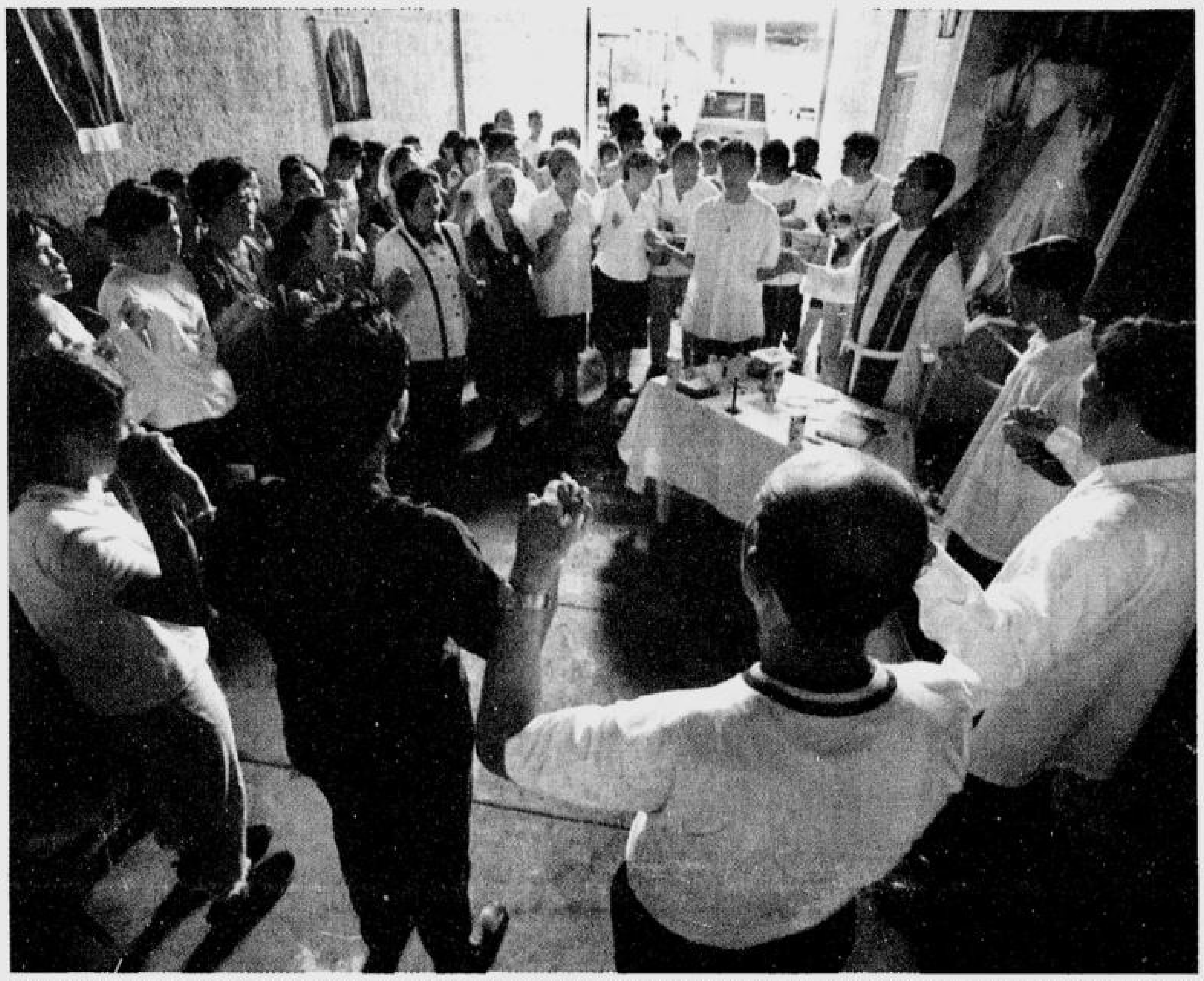
Mayor Feliciano Belmonte hinted that city officials would be included in the probe.

William Tan Genato (not Henato as earlier reported) is set to surrender late Sunday or today, a police official announced after Genato called him up on Saturday night. Chief Insp. Rudy Jaraza, head of the Central Police District's homicide section, said Genato was studying his legal options.

"He must be conferring with his lawyers but he said he was going to come out. If not, then he will face very heavy consequences," Jaraza said.

Speaking on cable television, Belmonte said city officials must have connived with the Manor Hotel management because it continued to operate in spite of several fire safety violations.

QC/ A18



PEOPLE living near the Quezon City Manor offer a Mass for those who died in the fire that hit the six-story hotel before dawn on Saturday.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Third captive rescued as soldiers clash with bandits

By Edwin Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The four engineers came all the way from China to help build a major irrigation project in Central Mindanao, and they ended up in the hands of Moro kidnappers.

Yesterday, two of the Chinese engineers were killed when Army soldiers clashed with the bandits in the hinterlands of Sultan Kudarat province.

A third engineer was wounded, but he managed to escape during the gun battle that erupted about 10 a.m. and lasted way into the afternoon in Barangay Bunawan, Columbio.

Five of the kidnappers were also killed when soldiers of the 301st Infantry Battalion caught up with the bandit gang in its hideout.

But the rest of the gang split into smaller groups and fled with the fourth Chinese engineer and a fifth hostage, a Chinese-Filipino businessman.

All four engineers are working for China Import Export Technologies Inc., a private company helping on a P2.7-billion project that is expected to irrigate 12,000 hectares of rice fields in North Cotabato and Maguindanao.

Construction of the irrigation canal, along with a dam, has suffered delays the past 12 years because of security problems, including the kidnapping of foreign engineers.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said he had informed President Macapagal-Arroyo about the killing of the two Chinese engineers whom he identified as Zho Zhing and Zang Zong Yee.

"They (kidnappers) immediately shot the two Chinese who were killed, but one ran toward the soldiers," Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, an Army spokesperson, told reporters.

Their bodies are to be airlifted to an Army base in Awang, Maguindanao.

Piñol said Wang Shung Li was slightly

2 SINO/ A19

Survivors of hotel blaze demand justice

By Philip C. Tubeza and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

UNLIKE those who died and whose autopsy and embalming bills were shouldered by the local government, the survivors of Saturday's Quezon City Manor Hotel fire have yet to receive help from the city, the hotel owner or the national government.

Security agency supervisor Ricardo Dumag, 48, who jumped from the fifth floor of the hotel in a desperate effort to survive, said he was worried about paying his bills at the East Avenue Medical Center where he is confined.

He said he has yet to receive the financial help promised by President Macapagal-Arroyo through the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office when she visited the site of the country's deadliest hotel fire.

Unlike most of the hotel guests that Friday night who were born-again Christians attending a convention, Dumag and four companions had checked in that morning for a meeting with officials of the Safety Watchman and Investigation Agency where they worked.

Dumag said he and his colleagues were sound asleep in Room 503 when they were awakened by screams around 4 a.m.

"We heard people crying and shouting that there was a fire. The blaze must have started much earlier because the screams we heard were coming from the rooms near ours," he said.

Arson investigators said the fire started

SURVIVORS/ A18

Vic, Ador to senators: Why pick on us?

By Carlito Pablo

COL. Victor Corpus, the high-profile military intelligence chief, yesterday appealed to senators to focus their investigation on the serious charges he had brought up against Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, an alleged ex-civilian agent who is corroborating Corpus' allegations against Lacson, also asked the senators to reconsider their decision to detain him.

During a Senate hearing on Friday, senators subjected Corpus to intense interrogation regarding his insinuations that certain lawmakers, judges, newsmen and religious leaders were as corrupt as Lacson.

For his part, Mawanay was ordered detained at the office of the Senate sergeant-at-arms until he could substantiate his allegation that Senate Minority Leader Loren Legarda had purchased from him 1,000 units of smuggled cell phones for P8.9 million sometime in 1998.

"I appeal to our distinguished senators to concentrate on the central issue at hand: That there is a drug lord among them and he is no other than Ping Lacson," Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told the INQUIRER over the telephone.

"I am not the criminal they should investigate," said Corpus, who has publicly accused Lacson of smuggling, drug trafficking, money laundering, kidnapping and killing suspected criminals.

In the course of his testimony, however, Corpus was put on the spot when senators asked him to name the senators, congressmen, judges, and newsmen that he claimed were in cahoots with Lacson.

This way, according to the senators, the integrity of the Senate, House of Representatives, judiciary and media would not

VIC/ A4

Velarde slips: GMA still the VP

By Martin P. Marfil

IT MAY have simply been a slip of the tongue, but it appears that religious leader Bro. Mike Velarde still refuses to accept the fact that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the President of the Philippines.

During the 17th anniversary celebration of El Shaddai, a Catholic charismatic group, on Saturday, Velarde introduced President Macapagal-Arroyo to the crowd as "*ang kasalukuyang Pangalawang Pangulo ng Pilipinas* (the current Vice President of the Philippines)."

The President, according to a witness, let the remark of the El Shaddai leader slide and simply went up to the podium to deliver her speech.

VELARDE/ A19

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo joins Bro. Mike Velarde and controversial Sen. Panfilo Lacson in waving the El Shaddai handkerchief during the 17th anniversary celebration of the charismatic group Saturday at the Rizal Park in Manila.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Senate matching recklessness with own recklessness

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE INQUIRY by three Senate committees into allegations of money laundering by and drug traffic connections of Panfilo Lacson on Friday shifted the heat from the senator and scorched two of his accusers, Col. Victor Corpus and Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, alleged ex-civilian agent of Lacson.

The inquiry took a different trajectory from the assurance of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. that the hearing would not turn into an "inquisition" against Lacson's critics.

The outcome of the first hearing was that the Senate detained Mawanay after he testified that Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste had bought "smuggled" cell phones from him, an assertion that Legarda-Leviste vigorously denied.

The hearing also brought Corpus under sharp interrogation, with some senators inquiring into Corpus' military-dissident background, implicitly raising doubts about his sanity, and into the factual basis of military intelligence and national police reports on Lacson's activities. These side issues had little to do with the main charges against Lacson and raised questions about what the Senate is really up to.

If the Senate hearings were aimed at getting to the bottom of the charges aired by Corpus against Lacson, Friday's hearing strayed from that purpose. It was transformed into a McCarthyist witch-hunt in which the senators demonstrated that they have the power to bully and send witnesses to jail, through a process in which they are the prosecutor, judge and sheriff—all rolled in one.

SENATE/ A4

ATRAS MUNA, MASYADO PANG PELIGROSO!

Aetas told to abandon mission

Strong winds, rains stop project to drain Mt. Pinatubo crater lake

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The 10 Aetas and two government engineers on a mission to build a canal on Mt. Pinatubo's crater pulled out of the summit Sunday due to strong winds and rains.

The crater's O'Donnel notch, where the Aetas had camped out since Thursday, was slowly caving in, according to Mayor Roger Yap of Botolan, Zambales.

Yap received a radio message from engineer Eduardo Bautista, project supervisor, saying the Aetas had expressed apprehension for their safety.

"We could not sacrifice their well-being. The project had to be postponed," Yap said, without saying when it would resume.

Tropical depressions "Jolina" and "Pabuk" hampered the work of the Aetas, who were accompanied by Botolan Councilors Joseph Panes and Nicanor Manzo and five rescue workers from the Pampanga Disaster Coordinating Council.

Amid strong winds and rain, the team began descending from the 1,400-meter high Pinatubo at 7 a.m. Sunday, Yap said.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Army Northern Luzon Command chief, sent two trucks to Poong Bungaw in the Crow Valley gunnery range in Capas, Tarlac, the safest and shortest route to the volcano, to pick up the team.

The Aetas used this route to get to the crater's Maraunot notch where on Friday they began digging the canal, believed to be the first such engineering intervention in the world.

"We started digging as soon as the sun shone. The soil (on the Maraunot notch) was soft. The canal could be dug," Aeta leader Willy Bulanhigan told Yap in an early morning radio message Saturday.

The canal is aimed at easing the pressure on some 210 million cubic meters of water that had accumulated in the crater after Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions.

A breakout from the crater lake could mobilize 300 million cubic meters of lahar onto the villages of Botolan, which are at the volcano's foot, in just two hours during severe weather, according to geologist Kelvin Rodolfo.

Yap also cancelled plans to send 90 more Aetas to the summit today to work full-blast on the canal. Previously optimistic, the morale of the Aetas has sagged, he said.

"They were in high spirits. They said they had pleaded with Apo Namalyari (the mountain deity) to give them a chance to save people's lives," Yap said, quoting Bulanhigan.

ROMY HOMILLADA

BEHIND this placid scene of Mt. Pinatubo lurks danger to residents of Botolan, Zambales, which stand in the way of a feared crater lake breakout.

7 women raped daily

AN AVERAGE of seven women were raped every day in the Philippines in the first six months of the year, a senator said yesterday citing police statistics.

Police recorded 1,295 rape cases from January to June this year, a slight decrease from 1,609 in the same period last year, Sen. Loren Legarda said.

The figure, she said, meant an average of seven rape cases a day, or one rape complaint every three and a half hours.

"While we welcome the decline, we believe that an average of one rape case reported every three and a half hours is still very high," Legarda said. *AFP*

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Abu Sabaya no longer in Basilan, says Akbar

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY—Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Ahmad Salayuddin, alias Abu Sabaya, has escaped the military dragnet in Basilan and is no longer on the island, Gov. Wahab Akbar said.

Citing a "reliable" source, Akbar said Sabaya is reported to be hiding in Zamboanga del Sur, under the protection of Commander Abdusalam Kiddie.

Kiddie leads a Moro Islamic Liberation Front "lost command" based in Zamboanga del Sur. The Kiddie group is also in the kidnap-for-ransom business and was responsible for the abduction of Italian priest Luciano Benedetti in 1998.

Akbar said that it was Kiddie who helped Sabaya to escape from Basilan and make his way to Zamboanga del Sur.

"The Abu Sayyaf are able to escape easily, they are not all hiding in the jungle," the governor said in Filipino.

But Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua, commander of the 1st Tabak Division, said he believed Sabaya was still in Basilan. The military would check Akbar's report, however, he said.

Sua blamed the media for causing the rift between Lamitan parish priest Cirilo Nacorda and Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, the former head of the task force assigned to go after the Abu Sayyaf.

Nacorda had accused Dominguez and four other military officials of allegedly conniving with the Abu Sayyaf to allow the bandits to escape during the June 2 siege in Lamitan.

He also alleged that military officials were helping facilitate the payment of ransom to the Abu Sayyaf.

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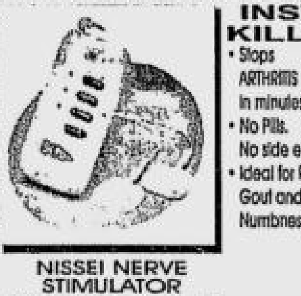
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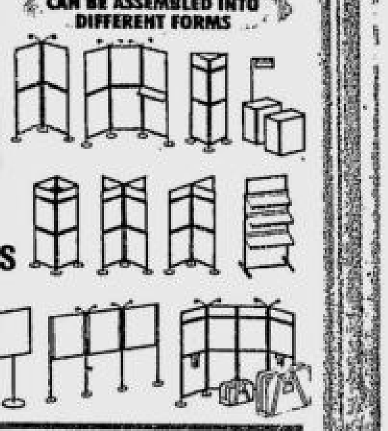
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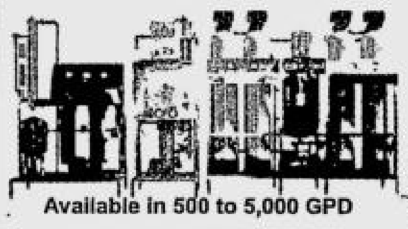
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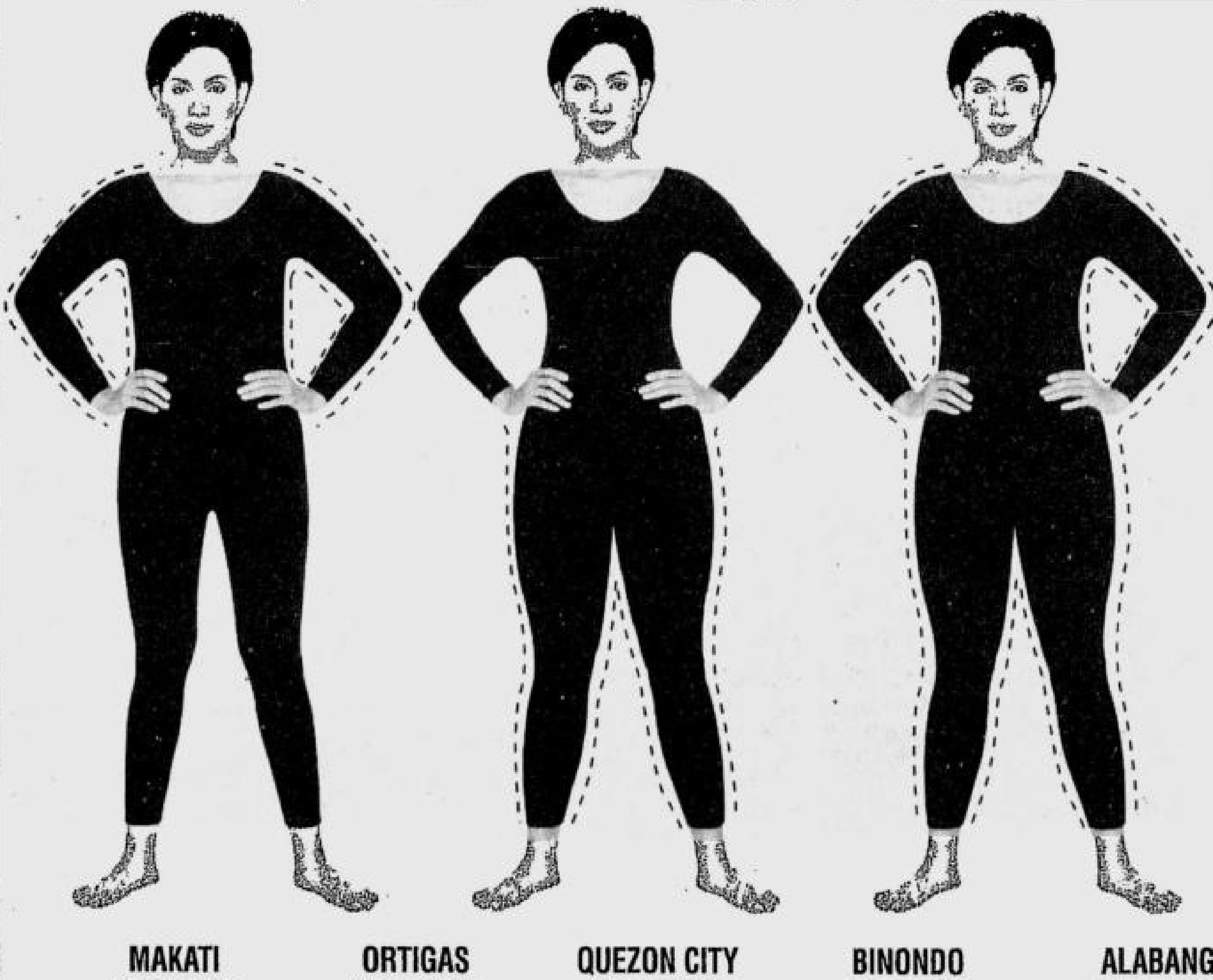

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Senate matching recklessness with own recklessness

(From page A1)

The score in Round One of the Senate hearings is that Lacson was the winner, without lifting a finger, and the Senate came out of it diminished. The outcome was the senators' gang-up on the witnesses.

What really happened was not so much a test of the credibility of Corpus and Mawanay as witnesses. It was a test of whether the Senate can carry out a fair inquiry without its members succumbing to a hysterical defense of their integrity or expanding the scope of the inquiry such that it blurs the main issue and it becomes unmanageable.

Terms of reference

The tendency of the Senate to shield Lacson showed even before the hearing opened, through the terms of reference of the three committees. While the main purpose is to determine the basis of the military intelligence report leaked to the press, accusing Lacson of the alleged offenses, other resolutions were passed expanding the terms of reference.

One senator wanted to determine whether the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) was conducting surveillance on senators and politicians. Another raised the issue of whether the Isafp and the military were waging a political demolition job to undermine civil institutions, paving the way for a military takeover. Still another demanded to know whether the Isafp had a mandate to conduct investigations overseas of crimes—a job that, it is claimed, ought to be done by the national police.

Given this direction of the hearing, the public has a right to ask: what is the target and focus of the inquiry? Is it to discredit Corpus and Mawanay? Is it to whitewash the charges against Lacson? Is it an occasion for the senators to flex their muscles and show to all of us that they have power and they are using it to defend their damaged institution—damaged by its subservience to deposed President Joseph Estrada during the impeachment trial?

'A few bad eggs'

Corpus has come under fire from the senators for leaking the Isafp report on Lacson to the press, for being reckless in his accusations, and for saying he went to the press because some judges could be bribed. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon took Corpus to task for saying there were "a few bad eggs" in the Senate. Biazon was so offended that he took it upon himself to defend the honor of the Senate by demanding that Corpus name names. Biazon was not one of the "bad eggs," but his fulmination merely highlighted the fact that the senators were more concerned about procedural matters than cutting through the thicket to get into the heart of the Isafp report.

Corpus went overboard when he expressed lack of faith in the judicial system and the political institutions, for which he has become vulnerable to criticisms. But the context of his skepticism is that he went to the press because political institutions, such as Congress and the political parties, were subordinated by the past administration and abdicated their function as a check-and-balance on the executive.

The fact is that reports on Lacson's activities have been flowing into the intelligence services since months before the last elections, and the persistence of the reports suggesting involvement of key officials in "narco" organized crimes pointed to the need to investigate further and to a serious national security problem. Efforts have, however, been made to substantiate some of the allegations through further investigations—a long and tedious incremental process.

Corpus may be too much of a "crusader," causing him to appear "reckless" to his critics. But Senate investigations are not supposed to respond to recklessness with its own brand of recklessness.

Too defensive

The Senate appears too defensive of its honor and of its members, probably in the effort of the senators to repair the damage done to its independence and prestige by the impeachment trial.

The senators leave us the impression that in this inquiry, they are more concerned about exhibiting their coercive powers than discovering the truth. This impression is accented by their applying of the full force of their coercive powers on the witnesses rather than focusing the inquiry into the charges against their colleague, Senator Lacson.

In the case of Legarda-Leviste, she was offended when Mawanay said he sold smuggled cell phones to her. She called the statement an absolute lie, and her colleagues closed ranks behind her in demanding that the witness be detained until he produces evidence to prove his assertion.

The senator need not be offended. She bought the cell phones in the open market, probably the price was good. Also most probably, we wouldn't have known they were smuggled. When you buy things in the market, you don't ask vendors whether they are selling stolen goods.

It's now the senator's word against Mawanay's. But because she is a senator and she has power, she and her colleagues decided she is telling the truth and it's up to Mawanay to prove the senator is lying. The difference is that Mawanay is just a witness and the senator, well, *is* a senator, and so he goes to jail. Senators have pronounced him guilty of lying.

In fact, most of what we have been getting from the new Senate is a demonstration of the powers of its members to intimidate all of us. With such display of power, we are afraid that no one will testify in the Senate hearings for fear of being harassed, intimidated, bludgeoned and detained.

Diversionary

Another diversionary move is the issue raised by Sen. John Osmeña over whether there was a demolition job to undermine institutions like the Senate to pave the way for a military takeover. This is a conspiratorial scenario feeding on the 2004 elections. The immediate threat to undermine the Senate comes from within itself. It has already undermined itself through its behavior impairing its independence during the past administration. The Senate is being further damaged by its arbitrary use of power on its witnesses. It does not need a military plot to demolish the Senate. Senators are making a good job of it.

If the senators are accusing Corpus of recklessness, they are using recklessness in the exercise of their power as an antidote against Corpus. What moral authority then does the Senate have over Corpus when it matches abuse with abuse?

Vic, Ador to senators: Why pick on us?

(From page A1)

be tarnished with such sweeping statements.

Corpus told the INQUIRER yesterday that he would name names only in a Senate executive session.

"We have files on these persons but we cannot go public because it will jeopardize ongoing investigations," he said.

For his part, Mawanay's lawyer said his client had written "a letter of protest with a prayer of reconsideration" to the Senate leadership regarding his "unconstitutional" detention.

Business of Senate

"What is the business of the Senate? Is it to legislate or imprison people?" lawyer Argee Guevarra told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Sen. Robert Barbers, who chaired the committee hearing, ordered Mawanay held in the Senate building until he produced his charges against Legarda.

In his testimony, Mawanay said that floodwaters had destroyed the documents substantiating the transaction.

The man who claimed to have sold smuggled goods on Lacson's behalf could not also remember the bank that Legarda used in issuing her check which, according to him, he handed over to Lacson.

Even so, Legarda denounced Mawanay's testimony as "preposterous" and she demanded that he present other proof.

Also on Friday, Mawanay said he delivered recently on Lacson's behalf P2 million in cash to Sen. Noli de Castro.

De Castro denied the charge. Both De Castro and Legarda worked for the ABS-CBN radio-television network.

Even so, Mawanay said that his intention in testifying before the Senate committee was "to reveal only what I experienced and witnessed about Ping Lacson."

Corpus and Mawanay are expected to continue with their testimony this when the Senate hearing resumes.

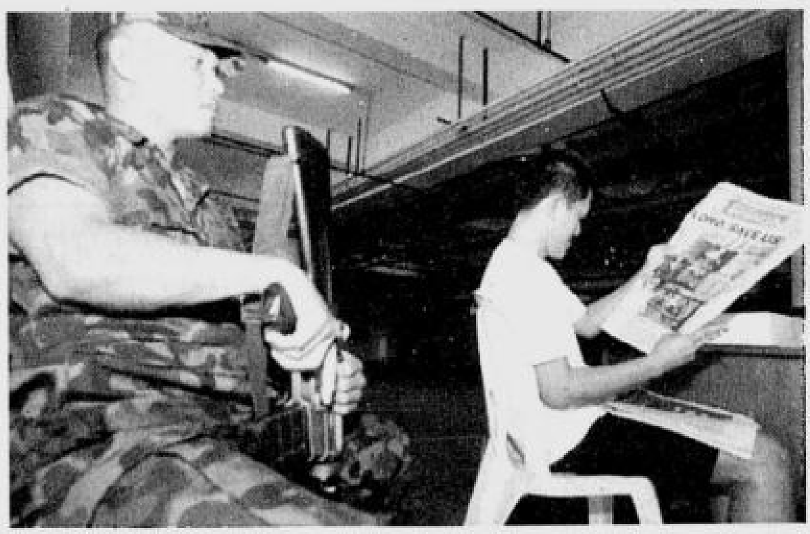
More witnesses

Corpus said that aside from Mawanay, the Isafp had other witnesses against Lacosn. These include Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a former Chinese interpreter for the Lacson-led Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, and police officers who participated in the arrest and summary execution of 11 Kuratong Baleleng members in Quezon City in 1995.

"I have staked my career and life in this undertaking and I'm confident of vindication," Corpus said.

Lacson was not present during the committee hearing, saying he would face Corpus when he appears during the Senate's "Question Hour" this week.

Various cause-oriented groups have expressed their support for Corpus and his crusade to rid society of corruption. *With reports from Christine Avendaño*



WITNESS Angelo Mawanay, aka Ador, reads the INQUIRER during detention at the Senate basement. JESS YUSON

Legarda defends witness' detention

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

SENATE Majority Leader Loren Legarda explained yesterday that when she pounced on witness Angelo "Ador" Mawanay at the Senate hearings last Friday, she was fighting for her "honor, dignity and integrity" as well as testing his credibility.

Legarda and other senators have been castigated by civil society groups and legal experts over their controversial decision to throw Mawanay in jail over his unsubstantiated allegations that he had sold to Legarda smuggled cellular phones in December 1998.

Legarda said the senators decided to detain Mawanay because they were "outraged over his blatant lies."

"We have to assess his statements . . . we have to be wary . . . because if he can lie on a simple story, what more the bigger story?" she said.

The smuggled phones allegedly came from Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the real focus of the Senate hearings, of which the Legarda cell phone story was a mere side issue.

Lacson is alleged to have illegally laundered ill-gotten dollars accumulated through smuggling, drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom and other criminal activities.

It was Legarda herself who opened the subject of Mawanay's allegations against her, which were not actually included in his affidavit against Lacson.

Legarda said that despite advice from her friends not to do so and after much prayer, she thought that the "best time" for her to confront Mawanay over his claims was during the Senate hearing.

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August 15, 2001

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City Mayor of Manila

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Malaysia regarded as new hub of terrorism

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia is seen as the new center for Islamic terrorism and the international community is concerned about rising militant activities in the country, deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has warned.

"Foreign visitors who called on me recently had brought up the issue. They are not interested to know about the economy or the country's growth rate," Abdullah told the Sunday Star newspaper.

"What they want to find out is how serious are militant activities here as they fear it would affect their investments and interests," Malaysian police said Friday that local groups were collecting firearms from the southern Philippines for Islamic fighters waging a "holy war" in Indonesia's Ambon island.

Two Malaysians and 13 Indonesians were arrested on July 26 off the coast of Tawau in Sabah state with a cache of weapons including two M16 rifles, six pistols and ammunition, police inspector general Norian Mai said.

The Malaysians were detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) which allows indefinite detention without trial.

Abdullah's acknowledgment of the problem comes amid revelations that four Muslim Malaysians are suspected of involvement in a series of bombings in Indonesia.

Malaysian newspapers have said that police have launched an investigation to establish whether the four had links to the so-called "Malaysian Mujahideen Group."

The group is accused of waging a "holy war" and is blamed for a spate of crimes including robbery, murder and bombing a church and an Indian temple.

Abdullah, who is also the home (interior) minister, said the government had to act to stop militant activities to allay investor fears. *AFP*

Military accuses MILF of breaking truce

By Carlito Pablo

THE MILITARY yesterday accused the Moro Islamic Liberation Front of violating criminal laws and the ceasefire agreement it recently signed with the government.

Military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan was reacting to the reported killing of five civilians and the wounding of another near Lanao del Sur last week by MILF rebels led by a certain Commander Ermetano Sulda.

"This is a criminal act," Adan said. "It's a violation not only of the (country's) criminal laws but also of the peace accord."

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said the six civilians had been attacked by MILF rebels while on their way to hunt wild animals in the vicinity of Tugor River in Talakag, Bukidnon.

The rebels took a Garand rifle, a shotgun and a caliber 45 pistol from the civilians.

The fatalities were identified as Fortunato Andamon, Erwin Andamon, Dodo Akuman, Nestor Limbal and Michael Limbal.

The survivor was identified as Aki Andamon.

Reports said they were ambushed by a seven-man MILF band.

Adan said the ceasefire agreement signed early this month in Malaysia prohibits both parties from committing hostile acts and urged the MILF to discipline its ranks.

Such provocative actions as the attack on the six civilians in Lanao del Sur could affect the ongoing peace talks, he said.

"The MILF leadership should take steps to control their field troops and refrain from engaging in violent acts," Adan said.

CONTINUING REGISTRATION OF VOTERS RESUMES
JULY 2, 2001
Office of City/Municipal Election Officer
–The Comelec

Davide heads Chino Roces' Freedom awardees

THE CHINO Roces Foundation will bestow the Freedom Award to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ).

President Macapagal-Arroyo will be the guest of honor of the awarding ceremonies on Aug. 27, 2001 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Davide was singled out "for his outstanding sense of judicial independence and wisdom, unshakable under severest tests," which he demonstrated as presiding justice of the impeachment court.

The Namfrel was chosen "for its sustained initiative taken in behalf of the nation's citizens, to guard the sanctity of the democratic vote."

The PCIJ was cited for its solid, courageous and skillful work in exposing the wealth of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Alvarez elected vice chair of Asean telecom group

TRANSPORTATION and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez was elected vice chair of the First Association of Southeast Asian Nations Telecommunications Ministers Meeting (Telmin). Elected chair was Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, Malaysia's minister of energy, communications and multi-media, who hosted the meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

Alvarez's election means that the Philippines will organize and host the second Telmin in Manila next year.

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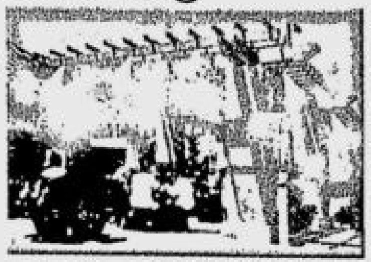
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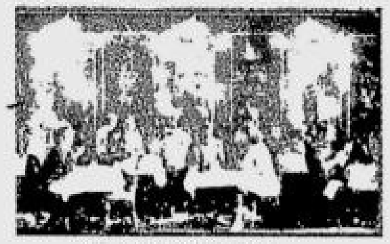
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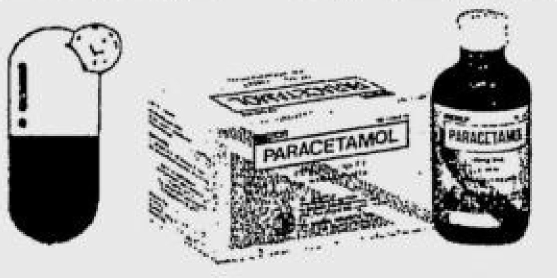

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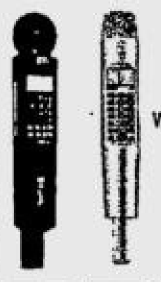

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McDonald's-Jollibee war heats up

FAST food giant McDonald's Corp. is investing P3.5 billion to expand its Philippine operations, but analysts say it has much to do to catch up with the country's top hamburger chain, Jollibee Foods Corp.

"They're playing catch-up with Jollibee but the problem is Jollibee is not stopping. They'll need more than just P3.5 billion to match Jollibee which in good times or bad times expands," said Spencer Yap, investment analyst at BPI Trade.com.

The rivalry between Jollibee and McDonald's has been hot over the years, battling for consumer loyalty by outdoing each other in celebrity endorsements, value-meals, and promotional toys.

Jollibee, set up in 1978 by the Chinese-Filipino Tan Caktiong family, has consistently clobbered competition despite Filipinos' preference for foreign brands, thanks to effective marketing and burgers more suited to local taste.

But McDonald's is not yielding. Its Europe/Asia Pacific President Jim Skinner told local media last week the multinational has earmarked P3.5 billion for its planned expansion in the Philippines.

"We see the potential of the Philippine market," McDonald's Philippines communications manager Jojo Samson said in a statement.

"We see the need to add more stores, especially in the countryside and build up our infrastructure."

McDonald's offensive

McDonald's now operates 230 restaurants in the Philippines versus Jollibee's 393.

With the extra financial muscle flexed by McDonald's, Merrill Lynch analyst Jojo Gonzales said Jollibee could face very serious competition soon.

"The fact that McDonald's will expand significantly will mean certainly more competition for guys like Jollibee which might be felt in the form of margin, space, and market," he said.

"I don't think Jollibee will take it sitting down. Their balance sheet is strong enough to undertake expansion as well. I guess the main question for McDonald's is where will its expansion budget go?"

Jollibee lost 25 centavos to close at P13.5 on Friday, as the Philippines' commercial-industrial subindex lost 17.47 points or 0.95 percent at 1,830.68 points.

It posted a 6.6 percent increase in net income in the first half, bolstered by increase in food purchases during political campaigns in the lead up to the May national elections.

Jollibee said it expected to sustain its earnings performance in the second half to reach a target of eight to 10 percent growth in net income for the year.

"The outlook for the third and fourth quarters should be better because of continued top-line growth given the easing of certain cost pressures like the exchange rate," Jollibee chief financial officer Miguel Navarrete said in a statement.

The peso has been on a downtrend since March and hit a six-month low of 54.70 against the dollar on July 17 due to the economic slowdown and this has raised costs since Jollibee imports beef patties.

But the government is targeting the peso to average around 50 per dollar by the year-end after the central bank recently raised liquidity reserve requirements for commercial banks to keep liquidity in check and defend the peso which is hovering around the 51 level.

Merrill's Gonzales said the local fast food industry could still expand despite the economic downturn.

"There is room to grow in the fast food sector. The fact that Jollibee has steadily expanded and branched out even in non-burger businesses suggests that the industry can absorb multiple players and products," Gonzales said.

Jollibee operates four restaurant franchises: hamburger chain Jollibee, pizza and pasta chain Greenwich, pastry chain Delifrance and Chinese food chain Chow King.

At the end of the first half, the Jollibee group had a total of 781 restaurants in the country and 28 overseas. It will add 15 more Jollibee stores in the second half. *Reuters*

RP seeks mercy for 3 jailed Filipinos

MANILA recently pressed Beijing to commute the sentences of three Filipinos imprisoned in China for drug trafficking.

During the 12th Philippines-China Foreign Ministry Consultations held in Manila last Thursday, officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs formally asked their counterparts from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to reduce the jail terms of Joana Francisco, June Efren Torres and Joel Aristoteles.

Francisco was originally meted the death sentence but her sentence had been commuted twice—to life sentence on September 1998 and to 17 years last December.

The DFA said Francisco deserves further commutation of sentence for good conduct and exemplary behavior.

Torres and Aristoteles were each meted a 15-year sentence.

In asking for the clemency, Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja, Jr., head of the Philippine delegation, said that assistance to nationals is a "very sensitive issue" for the Philippine government.

Baja also discussed with his Chinese counterpart, Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi ways to improve the procedure in notifying the Philippine embassy in Beijing and giving them access to detained Filipinos.

The DFA said Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. had earlier brought up the matter of the commutation of the sentences of Francisco, Torres and Aristoteles with Chinese Vice President Hu Jintao.

Both sides also agreed to forge an extradition treaty and an agreement on the transfer of sentenced persons.

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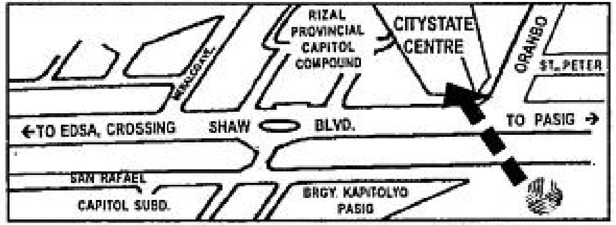

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Not again

LAST Friday, the "*balato* twins" were at it again. At the controversial joint Senate hearing, the two senators who admitted belatedly receiving a P1-million gift each from then President Joseph Estrada after he had a particularly good day at the mahjong table—we refer, of course, to Senators John Osmeña and Tessie Aquino-Oreta—made remarkable statements that would make our founding fathers (not to mention Osmeña's grandfather and Oreta's brother) cringe.

In an attempt to paint Col. Victor Corpus as a protégé of Fidel V. Ramos, who has been armed forces chief of staff, Secretary of Defense and President, Osmeña asked the military intelligence chief why it seemed that, after 10 years of incarceration, Corpus suddenly enjoyed an apparently charmed life: immediate release after Edsa I, reinstatement in the military, a master's degree at Harvard and so on. You must have had powerful connections, Osmeña said bluntly. When Corpus replied that he had never asked for any favor or sought any assignment, Osmeña cut him off with breathtaking cynicism. I have been in public office for 37 years, Osmeña said. I know that's not the way things work.

At Estrada's impeachment trial, when Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago implied that lawyers are motivated by money alone, Sen. Raul Roco chided Santiago for her uncharitable and inaccurate remark. At last Friday's hearing, not a single senator took up Osmeña's implied challenge. While it may be true that in Osmeña's case every single government appointment he was involved in was prompted by old-fashioned connections, it does not necessarily mean that other public officials cannot rise through the ranks on pure merit.

His twin, Senator Oreta, also tried to portray Corpus as being less than what he appeared to be. In her case, Oreta wanted to portray the accuser of Sen. Panfilo Lacson as psychologically unsound. She asked him why, when he was sentenced to death by a military tribunal at the height of martial law, he was supposed to have laughed. Corpus corrected her, and said he had merely smiled at the absurdity of the situation. Does Oreta need reminding that various people react variously to pressure situations? Some smile; others dance on the Senate floor.

Not in judgment

IF there was a saving grace in last Friday's joint hearing at the Senate, it was the performance of Sen. Robert Barbers as co-chair of the controversial inquiry. Having literally regained his voice, the one senator who missed the impeachment trial made up for lost time since his throat surgery by skillfully questioning the witnesses present at the hearing.

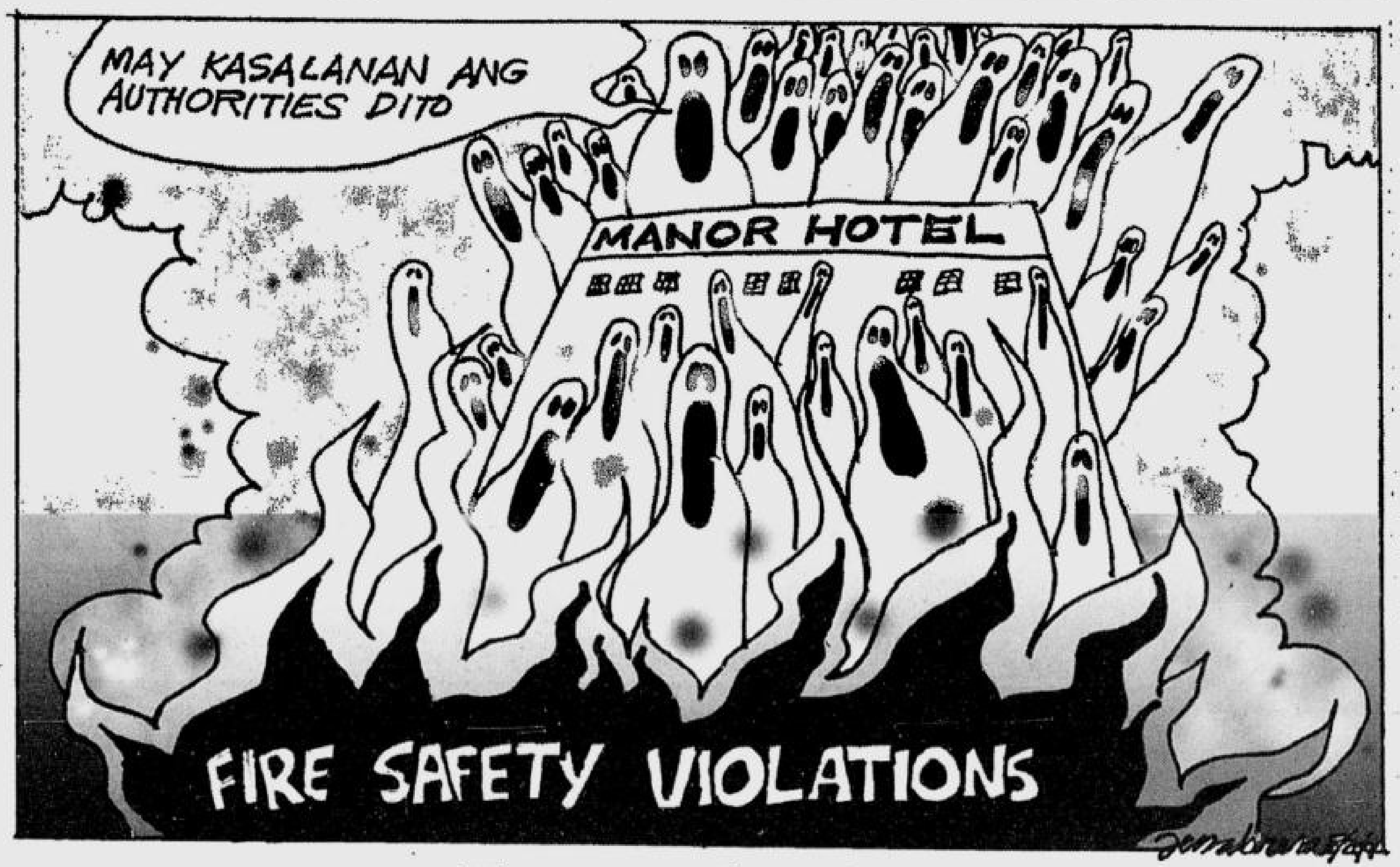
Barbers' background as a policeman must have served him in good stead. But beyond his experience in police investigation, it was his absence from the impeachment trial that must have made the crucial difference. He did not comport himself as though he were a judge.

Which, precisely, is the point. From the start we have suggested that the Senate look into the disturbing allegations about former police general Lacson: first, that the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force which he headed was engaged in criminal activity and, second, that he was involved in money laundering and other crimes.

We did so because we believed that the Senate had the responsibility to account for the conduct of one of its members, however new, and because the yawning loopholes in the law—it is not yet a crime to launder money in the Philippines, for instance—must be plugged posthaste.

We continue to think that Congress provides an appropriate forum for the resolution of some of the issues raised, but it must be said that the conduct of the senators at the hearing last Friday gives us pause.

The issue, it must be repeated, is organized crime. The accusations have been leveled at an incumbent senator. If the Senate cannot muster the self-discipline to hear the charges against one (or more) of its own without stopping every now and then to stridently proclaim its integrity and that of its members, then perhaps our faith in the upper chamber is misplaced.



The scared society

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE DEATH of at least 75 persons in the Quezon City Manor Hotel fire can be said to have been caused by fear. Filipinos have this underlying fear of thieves, burglars and porchclimbers. That is why most Filipino homes have steel grills blocking their windows and tall fences topped with broken glass, barbed wire, or pointed iron bars around their lots. The richer the resident, the taller the fence. Ethnically, the Chinese-Filipino usually have the more forbidding fences, perhaps an indication of who is the most scared, for which the Chinoys cannot be faulted, they being the favorite victims of kidnap-for-ransom gangs.

This quirk has puzzled many foreigners who usually have no fences around their property and keep their doors unlocked, a habit that was also true in the Philippines in areas outside Metro Manila years ago. When I was growing up in Malabon, the doors and windows of our house were never locked, even at night, to allow the five boys there to come home from their wandering anytime without disturbing those already home. Nothing was ever lost. Today, however, even poor farmers threatened by the eruption of Mayon Volcano dare not leave their homes for long periods for fear their belongings there would be stolen. We are a scared society.

And this fear has caused the death from fire of many people. The window grills that are supposed to keep the burglars out become the iron bars that imprison the residents. The bars that are supposed to make the homes safe, ironically, make them death traps.

How many times have we seen people waving their arms through the window grills crying for help as their homes burned? Most of the time, their neighbors were unable to cut or remove the grills in time to save the trapped residents. Even firemen with modern tools took a long time to cut the grills of the Manor Hotel. Next time, if such a problem arises, I suggest tying a stout rope or cable to the window grills and having a truck or two wrench it off.

On the Manor Hotel fire, I think (I am just guessing as I don't have all the facts) most of the casualties may have been killed by cyanide gas which is emitted by burning plastic. Cyanide is the gas used to execute condemned criminals in gas chambers. It kills quickly and painlessly.

Many of the Manor Hotel victims were not burned. They died of "smoke inhalation," according to firemen and doctors. But my guess is that it is not ordinary smoke. If it was, the victims would wake up coughing; they could have opened the windows and have at least a whiff of fresh air through the window grills. But they died quickly in their sleep and that could mean a quick-acting poison gas: cyanide.

Plastics and PVC have become favorite construction materials for ceilings, walls and doors because they are durable, waterproof and impervious to termites and rats. Could it be that they were used in the Manor Hotel and were the source of the thick, black, poisonous smoke that engulfed the victims? I may be wrong. Only a thorough investigation will determine that. If I am right, perhaps remedial legislation can be passed to make it mandatory to include fire retardants in the manufacture of PVC and plastics to be used for construction.

* * *

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga said it should be the blue ribbon committee headed by Sen. Joker Arroyo, and not the committee on public order headed by Sen. Robert Barbers, that should be the lead committee investigating the money laundering charges against Senators Panfilo Lacson and Loi Ejercito, et al. (The other committees are ethics and national defense.)

Salonga said, "the acts complained of—the money laundering and the amassing of ill-gotten wealth—reportedly took place when the two had not yet been elected to the Senate. The lead committee, in our view, should be the blue ribbon committee chaired by Senator Arroyo, a man of unimpeachable integrity and competence. A joint committee hearing may involve the public order committee of Senator Barbers or the justice committee of Sen. "Kiko" Pangilinan. A joint committee hearing led by the blue ribbon committee chaired by Senator Arroyo will involve all, or virtually all the members of the Senate. The blue ribbon committee alone has 17 senators as members.

"The blue ribbon committee is the popular name given by the media to the committee on accountability of public officers and investigations. It is called 'blue ribbon' due to the fact that it has been a 'committee of high distinction.' Long before martial law, the blue ribbon committee had become prestigious due to its impartiality and its speedy, no-nonsense investigations of public officials for alleged graft and corruption, inefficiency, or incompetence. Because the results of its investigations were given wide publicity by the media, a good number of erring public officials were fired and charged before the proper courts; those who were absolved were retained, and few others won the commendation they eminently deserved.

"However, for any investigation to overcome challenge in the courts by those who are required to testify or produce evidence, the Supreme Court, in the case of Bengzon v. Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, GR No. 89914, held that the questioned inquiry should be in aid of legislation, not just to find out whether (or not) there has been a violation of the law without any intended legislation involved."

Corpus vs Corpus

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MALACAÑANG seems pleased with the way Col. Victor Corpus performed at the Senate hearing. "The President was very happy that Colonel Corpus projected himself as a crusader who has no personal agenda," says presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao. "He is just doing his best. We cannot interfere with the Senate, but we're hoping that after the first hearing, the senators could focus on the credibility of Colonel Corpus."

Well, Corpus may project himself as a crusader who has no personal agenda, but that is not where the crux of his credibility or non-credibility lies. It lies on whether he has proof to back up his allegations. It lies on whether he has a real basis to call Lacson a crook and a murderer. We do not lack for do-gooders in this country who are batty as hell. It cannot possibly help improve his credibility in that respect that he once also showed himself to be a crusader with no personal agenda by abandoning his military post and defecting to the enemy, which was the NPA. We may all agree that that was an act of heroism and self-sacrifice. Not all of us will agree that was the right choice. He himself would write a book later to repudiate that choice. Whether the repudiation itself is right or not, we will never know. But the point is: Not all crusaders are believable, some are just confused.

Which is the really infuriating thing about all of this. I personally think there is merit in Corpus' allegations against Lacson, and they should be seriously investigated. But the way he has gone about substantiating them leaves everything to be desired. To say that he keeps bungling his case is to say that Inspector Closseau keeps bungling his cases.

You would think his years in the hills would have taught him something about the art of war. A cardinal principle of which is never to make several enemies at the same time. Mao Zedong was emphatic on that point. Make only one enemy at a time. That is the logic behind a united front: First unite with some of your prospective enemies to defeat your immediate enemy. Then deal with the rest of the prospective enemies in the same fashion.

Of course it wasn't Corpus who went on to accuse Sen. Loren Legarda and even earlier Education Secretary Raul Roco of dealing in contraband cellular phones, and Sen. Noli de Castro of taking a bribe, it was Angelo "Ador" Mawanay. But it was Corpus who put Mawanay there, so Mawanay's utterances become natural extensions of his position. You accuse other senators of petty crimes in the course of trying to pin down one senator for not very petty ones, you might as well dig your own grave. You not only diffuse your case, which is bad enough, you make several enemies at the same time, which is worse. How Lacson must be laughing his head off. It's taken the heat off him—one can only hope desperately at this point, not irreversibly. But Legarda delivers her privilege speech today, and she will turn the whole issue from Corpus vs. Lacson to Legarda vs. Mawanay. As it is, Mawanay has already succeeded in turning the issue into the Senate vs. Mawanay.

Yet another cardinal principle Corpus might have learned in the hills is to focus your firepower on one target, which is where the enemy is weakest. That is the logic behind ambushes and attacks on far-flung outposts. Corpus has already raised some very serious charges about Lacson's—and Erap's—money laundering activities in the United States and elsewhere. You would think that his next step would be to provide documentary evidence, or affidavits executed by bank officials or American officials testifying to the existence of those accounts in Lacson's—or his dummy's—name. That alone would be enough to bring Lacson down. And once he's down, the other cases would follow.

But, no. What Corpus has done instead is to flit from issue to issue, from case to case, from charge to charge. Without having solidified his money laundering charge first, he has gone on to accuse Lacson of murder (the Kuratong Baleleng case), kidnapping and drug pushing. A shotgun approach—*bahala na kung ano ang tumama*—doesn't help here. It only suggests sloppiness, if not recklessness. It's the stuff that elicits retorts of, "Why don't you accuse me of shooting Rizal, too?"

And, finally, you do not need to go to the hills to know that it is the height of insanity to trot out a witness like Mawanay before the Senate, not to speak of the world. The wonder of it is not that you have a Mawanay spinning his tales before the Senate, it is that you have a Corpus hanging on to his word. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel summed up the absurdity of it when, after Mawanay revealed that Legarda's check containing her signature was lost in a flood, he accosted Corpus with an exasperated "And you just took *his* word for it?" One might have added, "And you claim to be an expert in psywar and guerrilla warfare?"

Of course the Senate was insane as well to detain Mawanay. But in a perverse sort of way, the senators might have done him—and Corpus—a favor by it. By detaining Mawanay for telling his truth, such as he knows it, they have turned him into a victim of oppression and consequently thrown some sympathy his way. If they had let him go his merry way, he might only have drawn ridicule, or text jokes, from the public.

I sympathize completely with the groups that are railing against the "old boys club" mentality of the Senate. I have no doubt that mentality festers there as virulently as does the "mistah system" in the military. But the same groups may wish to cast their attention too in the direction of our would-be saviors, or crusaders as Malacañang puts it. If these are our friends, who needs enemies? What happened to Mawanay, some groups complain, has put a chilling effect on the other witnesses against Lacson. Well, if Mawanay represents the quality of the witnesses against Lacson, we would be better off with them blast-frozen to oblivion. This is not just a question of courage, this is a question of credibility. This is not just a question of guts, this is a question of facts. This is not a question of do-gooding, this is a question of getting things done.

Or else we'll just have another case of the spirit is willing but the corpus is weak.

Citizens want the truth

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

JUDGING from the reactions of the senators at last Friday's hearing of the Senate committee on public order chaired by Sen. Robert Barbers, which put AFP Intelligence chief Victor Corpus and agent Ador Mawanay on the witness stand, it did seem that the senators were more eager to protect the reputation of the Senate members than to get to the bottom of the serious allegations of Corpus. The Isafp chief, in accusing Sen. Panfilo Lacson of allegedly having amassed huge amounts of money from illegal activities like drug trafficking and hoarding them in foreign banks, has raised the possibility that this country may become another Colombia. The senators' problem, however, is that their zeal to protect the reputation of the chamber could run counter to the public interest and the concern of citizens.

At last Friday's hearing the senators looked quite silly with their petty concerns about procedural details, when the problem of narco-politics appears to be staring the nation in the face. In their preoccupation with the grass and the shrubs, they (deliberately?) missed the trees and the forest entirely.

* * *

The tri-media may not reflect the citizens' true sentiment, as obviously powerful vested interests are moving to project the contrary impression. But judging from what people talk about everywhere, they are concerned about Corpus' allegations and want to know the truth. They want an impartial, speedy and fair investigation—nothing less. I would estimate that more citizens believe Corpus at this point about the dangers of drug syndicates dictating our politics and the fate of this country, than his protagonist, Lacson.

Despite Mawanay's tendency to weave tall tales at times, Corpus still comes out far more credible in the eyes of the citizens than Lacson. There are many reasons for this. Corpus projects himself as a pure idealist ready to risk life and limb for a cause he believes in, whereas Lacson looks too Machiavellian. The plight of Lacson's trusted PAOCTF henchmen to the United States after the Dacer murder case heated up, and now alleged drug lord Kim Wong's flight to Xiamen, China, doesn't help his credibility any.

The senators' problem is that in preferring to devote more attention to procedural details like "authority," "hierarchy" and "jurisdiction," and being so picky about the chamber's "reputation," not only would they appear to be uninterested to get to the bottom of the truth; they could also look like they're protecting Lacson and his powerful backers, just because he's now one of them.

* * *

Sen. Loren Legarda called up early last Saturday to stress that she never purchased smuggled cell phones as alleged by Mawanay and that his allegation was a total lie, a "preposterous story." I told her that her concern about her reputation was quite understandable, but I insisted that the Senate reacted in a fascistic way in summarily detaining Mawanay, when all he did was to answer the questions directed to him in the first place by Legarda herself. The irony is that the Senate demanded that the agent produce evidence against her while in detention over the weekend, which was, of course, next to impossible. This is also in direct violation of Sec. 21 of Article VI of the Constitution on the Legislative Department, which guarantees that "the rights of persons appearing in or affected by (legislative) inquiries shall be respected."

* * *

I also recalled to Legarda that my impression was that Corpus himself had brought to her attention Mawanay's allegation about those cell phones in an earlier call on her; presumably because he wanted to protect her. Yet, when Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel berated the Isafp chief about Mawanay's allegation, I found Legarda's defense of Corpus' good intentions quite late and limp. Legarda indirectly admitted that there was overreaction on the part of the Senate on the Mawanay case, when she said that she personally would ask Barbers to release the detained agent already, even as she contemplates perjury charges against him. The problem, however, is that that small episode involving a small individual drove a big point about the Senate's arrogance and we can't blame witnesses for now fearing to testify before it.

* * *

The Senate has summoned Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to its "Question Hour" tomorrow at 5 p.m. to answer queries, this time from the Senate as a whole, on the allegations of Corpus against Lacson. The opposition senators, led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, at first wanted to zero in on Corpus himself, but they also wanted to put AFP Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva on the witness stand, doubtless to probe if Corpus violated military regulations in his intelligence operation vs. Lacson and other opposition members.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, however, reminded the senators that under the Constitution, and as observed in parliamentary practice which the basic charter adopted into its provisions, only the heads of the executive departments can be summoned before Congress "on any matter pertaining to their departments," and that this has to be with the consent of the President. Villanueva is only a bureau head, albeit of the country's biggest bureau. Under Section 22 of Article VI, written questions are submitted to the chamber chiefs at least three days before the Cabinet official's appearance, and if national security or public interest so requires, the appearance could be held in executive session.

That debate ended with the typically Pinoy compromise that only Reyes would appear at the witness stand, but that he could "bring along" Villanueva and Corpus.

* * *

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga, writing in Kilosbayan magazine way before the Mawanay episode, opined that contrary to what some senators have suggested, it should be the Senate blue ribbon committee and not the ethics committee that should be the lead committee in investigating the Corpus allegations. Salonga opined that the committees on public order and of justice ought to just play supporting roles. He noted that the good thing about a joint hearing led by the blue ribbon is that it will involve virtually all the Senate members as that committee has 17 members. Salonga also recalled something that may have been forgotten, that blue ribbon is just the popular name given by the media to the "Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations," and that long before martial law it had become prestigious due to "its impartiality and its no-nonsense investigations of public officials for alleged graft and corruption, inefficiency or incompetence." This mandate to investigate corruption, he opined, is what sets the blue ribbon apart from other committees whose business to conduct hearings have to be strictly in aid of legislation. It is interesting to see how its chair, Joker Arroyo, will handle this Corpus-Lacson affair.

Quo vadis, autonomy?

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

THE PESSIMISTS were wrong about the recent Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao plebiscite. That is, on the issue of violence. The Aug. 14 plebiscite descended fast into the otherwise violence-and-blood-filled history of political exercises in Mindanao as the "most peaceful." Although in some areas the plebiscite did not materialize, it was not violence, but bad weather that prevented the exercise.

Prior to the Aug. 14 exercise, not a few seasoned observers painted a bleak scenario, as was the case in the past, particularly with the boycott call of an MNLF faction led by ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari.

But for the "peaceful" conduct of the plebiscite, its one-sided outcome was already expected.

The low turnout—even in the four provinces that already constitute the present ARMM—was caused not only by bad weather and Misuari's boycott call, but mainly by the insufficient information drive (again!). The Comelec sent out the information campaign materials on RA 9054, the amendatory law on the proposed expanded ARMM, only on the later part of July—almost a month after the campaign period started last June 30.

Even President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's last-minute sales pitch in key areas of Mindanao apparently did not persuade most of the residents to cast their ballot.

While the official canvassing has still to be completed, the Aug. 14 plebiscite merely confirmed what has long been expected: the rejection of the proposed expanded ARMM. Except for the province of Basilan and the "Islamic City" of Marawi, the rest of the affected 15 provinces and 14 cities overwhelmingly opted out of the ARMM.

The Aug. 14 exercise was the third plebiscite held in Mindanao since April 17, 1977, when Marcos called a plebiscite to unilaterally implement the 1976 Tripoli Agreement. The present ARMM was created in Aug. 1, 1989 by virtue of RA 6734. However, it was actually organized and inaugurated on Nov. 6, 1990 in Cotabato City, the seat of the regional government.

On Tuesday, residents of the four provinces which presently constitute the ARMM (Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi) were only asked if they want its area expanded, but not if they want to be out of it. If it were otherwise, it is possible that one or two provinces would have also opted out of the ARMM. For even with Misuari at the helm of the ARMM, the much-touted progress and development of its component areas are still in the doldrums.

The result of the plebiscite, Ms Macapagal claimed, showed a clearly religious vote: Christian-dominated provinces rejecting the ARMM while the Muslim areas favoring it.

The President's statement, conveniently succumbing to the age-old stereotype that dismisses Mindanao as a classic case of a religious divide, only fans the selfish designs of those who wished to maintain the present state of autonomy in Mindanao—a failed experiment.

But no matter how the government, past and present, try to paint it, the issue of autonomy in Mindanao is not about religion. Both Christian and Moro residents in the affected provinces and cities rejected the ARMM concept chiefly because it does not effectively address the realities of Mindanao—a resource-rich, culturally diverse island yet the most deprived. The successive autonomous governments, including the one headed by Misuari, were nothing but another bloated bureaucracy.

Of course, the Macapagal administration stands to benefit most from this plebiscite. Despite calls for its postponement, including from Misuari's principal patron—the powerful Organization of Islamic Conference—the Macapagal government still rammed ahead with the exercise. Why? With the "expanded ARMM," the government may now use it as a carrot to entice the MILF for a negotiated settlement.

But, will the MILF bite?

Another beneficiary is the MNLF faction led by Cotabato City Mayor Muslimen Sema, who heads the 15-member MNLF Executive Committee that ousted Misuari as MNLF chair. Sema was recently appointed by Ms Macapagal as head of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, replacing the already beleaguered Misuari.

Incidentally, during the July MILF-GRP talks in Malaysia, the Sema-led MNLF faction and the MILF signed an agreement of cooperation which, leaders of both factions hope, may lead to its eventual reunification. If that happens, it is most likely that the administration's candidate in the coming ARMM elections will come from the unified MNLF-MILF factions.

And so, as far as the government is concerned, holding the plebiscite at this stage does really compute for the Macapagal administration's agenda in Mindanao.

But the question, of course, is: "Will the Aug. 14 exercise finally put to rest the issue of autonomy in Mindanao? Or, does it merely repeat a vicious cycle of failed experiments in autonomy?"

* * *

SILENCE OF THE GUNS? The ceasefire agreement signed by the government and the MILF in Malaysia is a breath of fresh air. Many observers, including members of the civil society are now closely watching the talks on the substantial issues. It is crucial to consider that the talks with the MILF are merely part and parcel of the overall quest for peace in our country.

In this light, the government's "road map" for peace must be interconnected with its "road map" in the stalled talks with the National Democratic Front.

While these two rebel groups may be ideologically different from one another, both actually raise the same decades-old issues: agrarian problems, unequal distribution of wealth, exploitation, right to self-determination, ancestral domain and human rights among others.

Only the resolution of these issues will guarantee that the guns in Mindanao, and elsewhere in the country, will be silenced for good.

Will Loren join the opposition?

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

LUDICROUS by design as Ador Mawanay may be, due process was nevertheless thrown out the window last Friday by the Philippine Senate. The outrageous premise acted upon by Majority Leader Loren Legarda, and supported by Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel and President Frank Drilon, is that a sworn witness in a Senate investigation, can be peremptorily detained if a senator is outraged enough by answers given to their own questions. Talk about stretching the principle of personal and collective privilege! Actually, the *gallante* in these two gentlemen, may just be old-fashioned suckers and putty in Legarda's hands. Beholding an understandably fulminating lady senator, they may have yielded to weaker instincts, and allowed Legarda to damage herself, and the Senate to boot, by detaining Mawanay. It is summary prosecution and judgment not seen since Marcos' martial law, or at least the day that Miriam Defensor-Santiago flipped her wig at Rosanna Fores during Erap's trial.

Legarda has imbibed the same potion from the well of a senator's personal privilege, with which the tempestuous Santiago, made a cock-eyed mockery of herself on national television. When Santiago seized upon three hapless members of the audience for errant looks and banished them from the impeachment trial, she was insisting that senatorial privilege includes an exemption from displays of public disdain, real or imagined. The same could be said of that incident involving a paranoid Sen. John Osmeña putting an equally hapless cameraman on the witness stand for running an audio feed near the good senator.

But even Santiago and Osmeña were on firmer grounds then than Legarda is in punishing a witness with summary detention for sworn testimony she elicited herself. I hope that Legarda has not inherited Santiago's penchant for overblown outrage at perceived affronts to her lofty position as senator. How hubris blinds even the brilliant and makes fools of them at times, Legarda demonstrated last Friday. Perhaps she was electrified into folly and fury by Mawanay's wild accusations, as intended by his handlers, whoever they are.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson grins in satisfaction. Maybe, Mawanay is his double agent, programmed to plant the terminator gene of implausibility into the charges against him by a Trojan horse of *reductio ad absurdum*. The strategy here would be to put ridiculous mustachios on the portrait of truth people are trying to paint about Lacson, the better to disguise it as falsehood. It would be a sophisticated form of misdirection for which the former PAOCTF chief of Erap and accused Marcos torturer, is said to be capable. Or maybe, Mawanay is just a crackpot and Lacson will luck out on Col. Victor Corpus' carelessness.

I just hope the whole affair does not drive Legarda into Lacson's waiting clutches and the opposition, with whom she may now find common cause on the suspicion that the administration is doing a demolition job on her. Both she and Lacson are being bruited about as aspirants in the 2004 presidential elections along with a crowded field that includes a cast of hyperbolic thousands. So a Legarda-Lacson team-up is just one of the possible combinations and permutations.

It is inevitable, I suppose, that Legarda will make a move away from the administration, if her presidential ambitions for 2004 are real, simply because there is certainly no room for her there. With the present majority's numerical advantage razor-thin, the very designation is a moveable one with a few swing votes capable of precipitating devastating leadership changes.

Ironically, the accusation that Corpus is damaging the Senate institution is one that is better leveled at the senators themselves, who have done little yet to resurrect it after last January's suicide by obstruction of justice. I for one, am completely disappointed in the People Power Coalition stalwarts like Joker Arroyo, whose silence was deafening on graft and corruption during the time of Mike Arroyo's recent troubles, now that he is a senator in the administration majority.

The Senate's handling of Mawanay last Friday, goes to the very heart of that institution's mandate to search after the truth with independence and unflinching dedication, even in the face of an apparently flawed witness. Of course it doesn't mean they have to countenance a disrespectful or uncooperative witness, neither of which Mawanay was. So what happened Friday was equally undesirable.

Without some renewed sense of noble decorum and judicious restraint, the Philippine Senate, as institution, could easily degenerate into the slaughterhouse of our self-respect as a nation, with or without the help of Corpus and Mawanay. The Senate could continue to self-destruct in the pompous smoke of grandstanding investigations and acrimonious din.

How will the nation's serious business get done in such an atmosphere? What action will Congress be able to take on such pressing matters as poverty, unemployment, economic development, globalization, energy, environmental protection and peace and security? The budget monstrosity, with its humongous waste and built-in sweetheart deals for the well-heeled and well-connected will once more borrow unconscionable billions from our great-grandchildren, while the politicians bicker and quarrel.

What is demoralizing for many people who are familiar with the way the Senate operates, is that it is really a glass condominium, and sooner or later the princes and princesses who tenant it, all settle down to their individual pursuits, never stepping on their colleagues toes without a *quid pro quo*. The last year's events have certainly done little to give the people any expectation that the Senate can rise to the level of greatness and practical wisdom that the country desperately needs. The Senate's meager venue, an annex of the GSIS building by the sea in Pasay City, can hardly contain the 24 incumbent senators, with their egos and their secrets, with their plans and ambitions, and then also accommodate the nation's interests and well-being.

Hyphenated Filipinos

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

CONFUSED.

That's what a reader feels whenever she reads news reports in the INQUIRER that relate to Filipinos of Chinese ancestry or Chinese nationals who have embraced Filipino citizenship.

The reader has noticed that they are referred to as "Chinese-Filipinos" on the front page and Metro section, but elsewhere in the newspaper the description is either Filipino-Chinese or Chinese-Filipino, depending on the mood of the reporter.

She particularly mentioned the news that appeared at the Business section on Aug. 6 (headlined "Chinese traders won't flee, won't invest either") where the two descriptions were used interchangeably.

So which is which? she asked. She believes there is only one correct word to identify Filipinos whose ancestors trace their roots to China. The two descriptive words should not be confused with one another because they have different meanings and connotations.

She asked that this issue be clarified for the benefit of her students who look to the INQUIRER as reference material in the correct spelling and usage of commonly used words in the English language.

I consulted the senior editors on the matter. Bearing in mind the generally accepted norm of American newspapers on "hyphenated citizenship," a feature that perfectly describes the composition of the US populace, they believe the correct word is Chinese-Filipino or Chinoys, for short.

It seems that until the late '70s, hardly any attention was given in the United States or elsewhere in the world to the original lineage of people who acquire citizenship from a country different from where their forefathers came from.

Ancestry

The ancestry or lineage of a person assumed significance during the time of US civil rights leaders Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and other firebrands who descended from the slaves the US farmers imported from Africa.

They considered degrading and insulting the words "negro" or "nigger" that the light-complexioned Americans used to describe them. Neither were the civil rights advocates happy in being called "black Americans" because of the odious meanings that usually accompany that word, such as, "black sheep," "black eye," "black ball" and "Black Saturday."

In a bid to strengthen love for their ancestral roots and strengthen ethnic ties among themselves, they demanded an end to the use of politically incorrect descriptive words and be identified instead as African-Americans. The new name, which immediately gained acceptance within their ranks and other sectors of American society, gave them an identity separate and distinct from the other Americans who trace their roots to Europe.

The practice was eventually picked up by other minority groups in the United States who, like the African-Americans, wanted to show pride in their respective lineages and so the words "Chinese-American" and "Mexican-American" became part of the vocabulary of the print and broadcast media.

The rule in "hyphenated citizenship" is the first word refers to the ancestry of the person while the second word represents the citizenship the person presently holds. So a Chinese-American is simply an American citizen whose original ancestry or nationality is Chinese. If the words are interchanged, the effect will be that of a person who was originally an American citizen or was born in America but later converted to Chinese citizenship.

To the reader who called my attention to the correct description of our fellow Filipinos of Chinese ancestry, I have brought the matter to the attention of the editor in chief who promised to instruct the editorial staff to be more careful in the words they use to identify these fellow countrymen.

Romanticized suicides

A reader, Rennel Jose Santos, had a quick response to the article I wrote last week titled, "Reporting tragedies." He agreed that suicides should not be glorified in order to avoid copycats.

But, he pointed out, "on the very same day that your column came out, two reports on suicide (one failed and one 'successful') were printed in the Metro section ('Electrician tries suicide twice, fails twice' and 'Woman hangs herself after lovers' quarrel').

"In the first article, the very first two sentences read 'Renato Gerado was taken to a hospital on Friday FOR DRINKING A LITER OF GASOLINE. Saturday, he tried to JUMP OFF THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE EAST AVENUE MEDICAL CENTER…' (Emphasis supplied.)

"The second article also reports that '…Cabrera TOOK AN ELECTRICAL CORD, LOOPED IT AROUND HER NECK, AND TIED THE OTHER END AROUND A WOODEN BEAM IN THE CEILING…' (Again, emphasis supplied.)

"You mentioned that the news should read like a handbook on how to commit a suicide. Don't these two news items violate that exact guideline? The second article also reported that the woman killed herself after quarreling with her live-in partner WHOM SHE SUSPECTED OF HAVING AFFAIRS WITH OTHER WOMEN. What happened to reporting the suicide in the most clinical way possible?"

I called the attention of the Metro editor to the points raised by the reader. After going through the news reports in question, he admitted the news violated the newspaper's guidelines on the reporting of suicides.

The INQUIRER apologizes for the error and regrets the failure of the news reports mentioned to meet the standards it has laid down in reporting such events.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Peace determinant

"Peace will be determined by the development of a place and not whether it is part of the ARMM."

—Davao del Sur Gov. Reynerio Llanos, rejecting inclusion of his province into the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

Why join ARMM?

"We are better off today. Why should we join the ARMM? It would be like bashing our own head with a rock."

—Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadato

Is Mr. Clean true?

"His 'Mr. Clean' projection, spun off by a well-oiled PR machinery with matching photo-ops and sound bites, landed him his Senate seat and reined in his political obscurity. Hence, it would also be in the same arena that he should be outplayed."

—Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza seeking to have Sen. Panfilo Lacson face the court of public opinion

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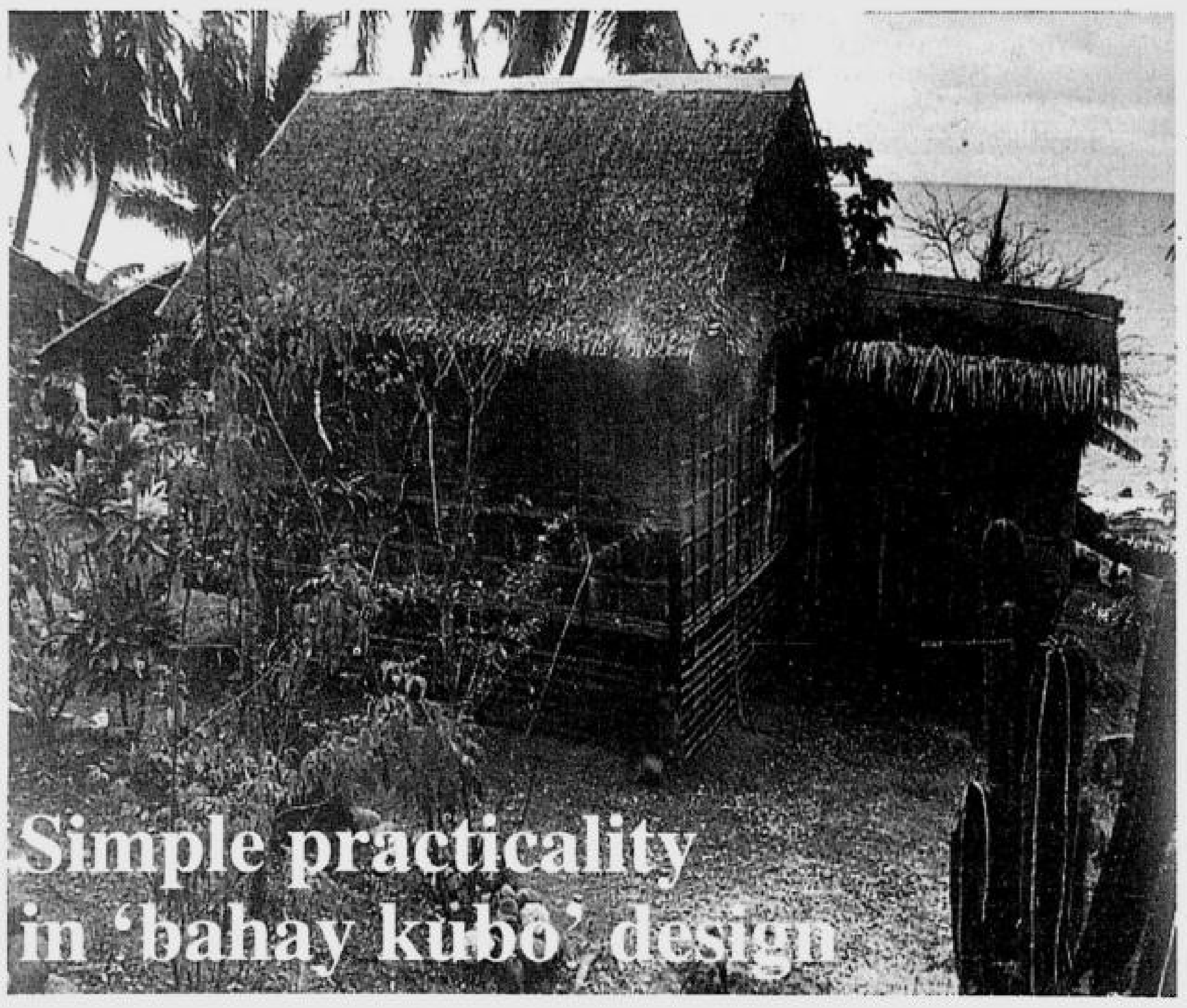

Simple practicality in 'bahay kubo' design

WITH APOLOGIES to Lino Aldana in his letter to the editor (PDI, 8/14/01), who urged us to stop romanticizing the *bahay kubo*, I say let us continue our fixation with the *bahay kubo*, and even raise it to new heights! For the *bahay kubo* is indeed a stunning piece of indigenous Filipino technology developed through the centuries. Its long, steep roof ensures good ventilation inside the house and effects natural waterproofing. Have you ever noticed that no rain trickles inside the *bahay kubo* through its nipa roof even if there, may be tiny holes in it? That is because the steep angled-roof makes the water slide down its side without entering the house. The raised flooring also ensures good ventilation in our hot and humid climate. And during typhoons the strong wind just whistles harmlessly through the roof, windows and the raised floor, while wreaking havoc on the Western-style concrete houses. It is not an uncommon sight to behold the lowly *bahay kubo* standing straight and upright after a strong typhoon, while cement and stone houses lie flat and prostrate on the ground. Chalets and bungalows with their low roofline and ceiling are designed for winter climes to keep the warmth in and the cold out. In the interest of so-called progress and modernization, we have thoughtlessly adopted Western-style houses, and as a consequence spend fortunes in air-conditioning units, electric fans and electricity to keep these houses cool and comfortable in our hot and humid tropical weather.

I am not suggesting that we demolish our stone and cement houses and move into bamboo and nipa *bahay kubo*. What I do suggest is that our architects and home builders should design houses using the *bahay kubo* technology, utilizing strong and sturdy materials so that we can live in sturdy houses with good ventilation which are also highly resistant to strong typhoons. Given our Filipino ingenuity, these *bahay kubo* designs will no doubt be beautiful, and may even win international awards in home design. I further suggest that the Macapagal administration design and build such houses in its thrust on mass housing for the poor.

Aldana's plea to stop romanticizing the lowly *bahay kubo* sadly reflects our colonial mentality and lack of national self-identity. We unthinkingly embrace Western technology, values and practices in the name of progress and modernity. We hide our being Filipino and are ashamed of our pug noses and brown skin. And we are mindlessly unaware of the fact that it is only in being truly Filipino with a strong sense of our national identity that we can take our proper place among the community of nations and win the world's praise and appreciation.—**SAMUEL YAP, 2 Verbena, Doña Manuela Subd., Pamplona 3, Las Piñas City**

Condoms hardly help prevent AIDS

THIS is a reaction to the article written by Norman Bordadora re: acceptability of condoms to prevent AIDS. In the forum where Father Keenan alluded to the bioethical principles of double effect and lesser evil to justify the use of condoms to prevent the transmission of the HIV, we submitted the more serious consideration of the bioethical principles of truth-telling and informed decision because of the following known scientific facts:

The condom does not provide 100-percent protection. According to C. Michael Roland, editor of the Rubber Chemistry and Technology Naval Research Laboratory in Washington D.C., "Electron micrographs reveal voids 5 microns in size (50 times larger than the virus—the HIV virus being only 0.1 micron in size), while fracture mechanics analyses, sensitive to the largest flaws as large as 50 microns (500 times the size of the virus)." He added: "The high failure rate of condoms in the prevention of pregnancy alone should argue against their use in preventing contraction of the fatal disease—because the HIV is 450 times smaller than the sperm, the effectiveness of condoms for AIDS prevention is actually much worse than for contraception. Their promotion for the purpose of preventing HIV transmission therefore is dangerous and irresponsible."

In one textbook on Obstetrics and Gynecology, the failure rate of condom as a contraceptive is reported to vary from 4 percent to 30 percent, depending on the age group of the female acceptor being highest among those below 25 years old. As mentioned above, the size of the HIV is much smaller than the sperm and therefore higher failure rates are expected if the purpose is to prevent transmission of this disease.

These facts are well reflected in the observation that the more a particular population uses the condom, the higher the rate of infection. In the United States, for example, where condoms are readily available and promoted in schools through the so-called "school-based clinics," HIV infected individuals number one million and those suffering from AIDS are reported to be 450,000. The Philippines has the lowest incidence in the region: as of December 2000, the number of HIV positive reported was 1,441, 486 of whom had AIDS. As Dr. Gilles Poumerol of the World Health Organization points out, "In a country that is 85-percent Roman Catholic, extramarital sex is not as prevalent as in some countries."

These realities were discussed extensively during the Conference on Ethical Directions for the Third Millennium held in Buffalo, New York last October 1999. Abstinence programs and "True Love Waits" programs for teens were presented from New York and New Jersey. Evidently, the only way to control this dreadful disease is through risk elimination rather than simply risk reduction.

These scientific facts must be known to all so that they will make an "informed choice." Even among married couples, the infection rate in contracting HIV from the infected spouse, in spite of condom use, is 18 percent based on one study. If a person truly loves another, there must be other non-genital ways of expressing that love without potentially harming the other.

After knowing this, I wonder how many of your readers will still be willing to have sexual relations with someone who is HIV positive and who uses a condom. This should make an interesting subject for a survey.—**ANGELITA MIGUEL-AGUIRRE, M.D., chair, Committee on Bioethics, Department of Medicine, University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila**

Amending the Clean Air Act

THERE are moves from some sectors to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the ban on incinerators. Enterprising companies will see to it that the word incinerator is not mentioned in their offer. They will use terms as "waste-to-energy," "pyrolysis," "state-of-the-art," "gasification," etc. but these are all burn technologies.

Waste Not Asia (WNA), a coalition of environmental groups from the Asia-Pacific countries, held its second annual conference in Taipei, Taiwan on July 26 to 30, 2001 in which I was a participant.

All the 41 delegates, especially the delegates from the industrialized countries (Japan, South Korea, Taiwan) where there are many waste incinerators, saw the need for their countries to make the critical shift from the traditional "burn and bury" (incineration and landfilling) disposal options to active pollution prevention and disposal reduction programs like recycling and composting.

One of the delegates from Japan, Ayako Sekine of Greenpeace Japan, said that countries should learn from the lamentable experience of Japan, which has chosen the incineration route over other safe and productive waste management options, only to find itself in deep financial quagmires wasting precious public money in a futile exercise to control dioxin emissions.

Japan operates the biggest number of waste incinerators than any other country in the world today. The country, however, also owns the dubious distinction of having the highest level of dioxin emissions in the environment, a major consequence of this mindless waste-burning policy. The Japanese government spends between $5 and $7 billion every year for the construction and maintenance of incinerators, with a third of the amount going into emission control devices.

According to independent studies, communities living around and downwind of incinerators in Japan have been documented to have higher rates of cancer, birth defects and infant mortality compared to incineration-free areas.

Incineration as well as so-called state-of-the-art varieties have been pinpointed as a major, if not the largest, source of toxic emissions into the environment, including heavy metals and the ultratoxic dioxins and furans which are known carcinogens. Dioxins and furans are on the list of persistent organic pollutants now targeted for elimination by the international community under the newly adopted Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pullutants which renders incineration as an untenable option for many countries. All the countries in the world are obliged to develop action plans to reduce or eliminate these dioxins.

Incinerators will just add to our problem of corruption. They cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Thus, public officials will be tempted into buying them, regardless of the damage they do to our health and environment.

The answer to the waste problem is not incineration. It is ecological waste management. Reduce our waste, keep our waste segregated, compost, recycle.—**SONIA MENDOZA, trustee, Mother Earth Unlimited, 43 Hillside Loop, Blue Ridge, Quezon City**

LETTERS

Several countries reject 'open skies'

WHILE some government officials and many in the private sector in the Philippines clamor for an "open skies" aviation policy, the government of Hong Kong has rejected the policy, which is being pushed by the United States. While it is known for its wide-open economy, the Hong Kong government believes that allowing foreign airlines unrestricted access to Hong Kong would inflict more harm than good to its economy.

A paper released recently by the Hong Kong Policy Research Institute concluded that "a dominant home-carrier, with its headquarters in the home base, has a much more linkage and multiplier effect on the local economy than foreign carriers." The "open skies" policy, it said, could jeopardize the jobs of 325,851 persons employed in key industries in Hong Kong.

Moreover, the research paper pointed out, "The US aviation market remains closed to foreign competition, despite its liberalization policy since 1978. For instance, non-US citizens cannot hold more than 25 percent of the voting shares of a US carrier. Foreign carriers are not allowed to carry passengers between US cities. Liberalization in the United States has generated some undesirable outcomes and prompted the US government to consider reregulation."

South Korea has also rejected open skies. Officials of the Korean government aver that the "open skies" treaty, being proposed by the US government, which would allow airlines from each country to service any location in the two countries, is "detrimental" to Korean interests, according to Travel News Asia. Thailand is likewise repudiating the policy, according to Travel Trade Reports Weekly. It is significant that the Hong Kong, Thai and South Korean national airlines are strong domestically and internationally. And yet their governments refuse to put them at the mercy of the "open skies policy" originally proposed by US President Eisenhower in the 1950s.

Those who blame the dearth of foreign tourist arrivals in our country on our present civil aviation policy are barking up the wrong tree. The causes lie elsewhere: in our primitive and non-competitive tourist facilities, in our inadequate public infrastructures and in our unstable peace and order situation. There has been no lack of airline seats to our country for foreign tourists. While tourism is important to our economy, we should not also sacrifice other sectors like air transport linkages among our major islands, which can only be supplied by a strengthened national airline, thus advancing commerce and industry throughout our archipelago. We should not also sacrifice the jobs of hundreds of thousands of Filipinos dependent on our national airline, PAL, and on satellite industries. More unemployment will worsen our already sick economy. The countries with the strongest domestic economies are also the countries with a more developed tourism industry like France, Germany, Italy, the United States, Canada, etc.—**MANUEL F. ALMARIO, 60 Road 3, Project 6, Quezon City**

Talks only hope for Myanmar to end pariah status

NEWS ANALYSIS

Philippe Agret

YANGON—Talks between Myanmar's junta and democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi are moving painfully slowly but remain the pariah nation's only chance of emerging from a political impasse that has lasted a decade.

Informed sources in Yangon say that since they began meeting last October, the two camps have not progressed past the first stage of the process which is aimed at creating a "climate of confidence and mutual respect."

The new atmosphere has seen the release of around 170 political prisoners in small groups over the past few months.

But eventually the aim is to establish a full-blown "national reconciliation" process which, through the drafting of a new constitution and democratic elections, would herald the return of civilian government after 40 years of military rule.

The junta allowed free elections in 1990, which Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won convincingly, but the military regime has always refused to recognize the result.

Observers have been heartened by the prisoner releases, but note that only about 60 are from the "priority list" of 200 presented to the generals by United Nations special envoy to Myanmar, Razali Ismail, when he last visited in June.

The releases—a major priority for Aung San Suu Kyi who herself remains under loose house arrest restrictions—are going too slowly and have made only modest inroads into the 1,800-strong dissident population in jail.

"The military is going much too slowly. The passing of time is not an advantage for anyone. They should move more quickly," said a source close to the talks.

"Aung San Suu Kyi is frustrated at the pace (of the releases). She thinks they could move a lot faster," said a western diplomat who nevertheless said the Nobel peace laureate is "still willing to pursue the dialogue."

The international community meanwhile is waiting for some proof of the generals' sincerity, like a mass release of prisoners or the lifting of restrictions on Aung San Suu Kyi and her two top aides who are also in detention.

But the moment of truth—when the "pseudo dialogue" is transformed into a real political process—is approaching just at the start of a series of important diplomatic events which are expected to have a bearing on the talks.

Myanmar's generals, long reviled on the world stage for their appalling human rights record and refusal to brook democratic reforms, have never had such a busy schedule as over the next few weeks.

Razali, the Malaysian diplomat who spearheaded the talks, is expected in Yangon at the end of the month, and a team from the International Labor Organization (ILO) will fly in to assess the extent of forced labor.

A European Union mission will make a visit in the autumn, and the UN's special rapporteur on human rights, the Brazilian Sergio Pinheiro, will make his second trip to Yangon.

Just as significant are plans for the junta's No. 1 Senior General Than Shwe, to visit his staunch ally Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, and attend the next UN General Assembly in September.

The military regime has implicitly linked hints of progress in the talks with moves to lift the heavy sanctions placed on Myanmar.

It is unlikely that the European Union or the United States will lift their sanctions anytime in the near future, but the international community has indicated it is willing to make a gesture if the generals begin moving toward democracy.

In what appeared to be an implicit gesture of encouragement, the heads of the UN agencies in Yangon recently signed a joint letter urging more international aid to cope with Myanmar's "humanitarian crisis."

Despite the considerable hurdles, no one in Yangon expects either side to walk away from the dialogue. Aung San Suu Kyi has put her reputation on the line by sitting down with her enemies, and the junta's pariah status would become permanent if it allowed the process to collapse.

"They do not have any alternatives," diplomats in Yangon say in unison.

AFP

Probe of airport noise

I HAVE filed House Resolution No. 105 titled, "Resolution Directing the Committee on Transportation and Communications to Conduct An Investigation, in Aid of Legislation on the Complaint of Residents Near the Airport Concerning the Noise Pollution Caused by Arriving and Departing Airplanes and to Recommend Appropriate Measures for the Abatement of the Same."

I hope that this resolution will be given due consideration in the House of Representatives and I wish to assure Justice Isagani Cruz that I will work vigorously for its approval for the benefit of the residents of Parañaque City, especially those living near the airport.

I would appreciate it if Justice Cruz could join me in supporting the immediate approval of this very important resolution and would welcome any suggestion and recommendation from him in relation to this.—**EDUARDO C. ZIALCITA, representative, Parañaque City**

Encouraging moves for the economy

LATELY, the Macapagal administration has taken some encouraging moves for the economy.

First, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo directed Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura to rescue the peso from speculators and Buenaventura obeyed. These are unusual developments.

Through the manipulation of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the Bangko Sentral is, under Section 20 of Article XII of the Constitution, independent of Malacañang and Congress. Which means the President has no authority to direct the Bangko Sentral governor on any matter. But she issued the directive clearly in the national interest.

The President's directive to Buenaventura violates a cardinal WB-IMF rule: Do not interfere with market forces. By penalizing nine banks in connection with the peso-dollar exchange manipulation, Buenaventura transgressed this rule. The result is good—the peso gained 64 centavos against the dollar in three days, a development quickly translated into cheaper oil prices. The WB-IMF is quiet, as it was quiet when Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir imposed capital controls—with healthy results—in Malaysia in the wake of the 1997 Asian economic crisis.

Second, the projects launched by President Macapagal in her State of the Nation Address will be financed from internal sources. This is a departure from a policy of reliance on foreign funding.

Fourth, while in Malaysia (whose manufacturing sector accounts for almost 35 percent of its gross domestic product), President Macapagal worked for the early reoperationalization of the National Steel Corp. This is significant because the NSC is not only an industrial enterprise but in a strategic industry (steel). In her Sona, the President did not say a word about industrialization.

Finally, President Macapagal spoke of currency control during her visit to Malaysia and, despite warnings from the usual US-trained technocrats, has not taken back her words.

The sooner our officials act as Filipinos rather than robots of so-called market forces, the better for this country.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Israel fires missiles at Palestinian outpost

JERUSALEM—Israel fired two surface-to-surface missiles at a Palestinian police post in the Gaza Strip on Saturday in response to Palestinian mortar fire. A 7-month-old Palestinian boy and a 6-year-old Israeli girl were wounded in separate shootings.

The target of the missile attack was a police station in the Gaza town of Khan Yunis, near the Gaza International Airport, and three Palestinians were lightly hurt by flying debris, said Brig. Gen. Abdel Razek Majaida, the police commander of Gaza.

The station was destroyed, and Israeli helicopters hovered over Khan Yunis after the attack, witnesses said.

The Israeli army said the strike came in response to several Palestinian attacks on Israeli targets over the weekend, including the firing of seven mortar shells at the Jewish settlement bloc of Gush Katif near Khan Yunis.

In the West Bank, meanwhile, a 7-month-old Palestinian baby was seriously wounded near the village of Baker Al Hatab in what witnesses said was an unprovoked shooting by Israeli troops.

The army said it was unaware of such an incident, but was checking.

Baker Al Hatab, like other West Bank communities, has been sealed off by Israel for most of the past 10 months of Israeli-Palestinian fighting. A mound of earth closes off the main access road to cars.

REUTERS

A PALESTINIAN policeman stands guard next to the body of Nasser Zedea during his funeral in the West Bank city of Ramallah Aug. 18. Zedea, shot by Israeli soldiers during clashes last week in Ramallah, died of his wounds.

Villagers often get around the barrier on foot, though from time to time they are chased away by Israeli troops.

On Saturday, village resident Naameh Odeh said she and her infant son, Noor, were trying to return to their home, but were blocked by Israeli troops near the barrier. Soldiers fired tear gas toward her and others walking near the roadblock, she said.

Odeh said she retreated. She said she sat down in a taxi parked near the checkpoint to get some rest and wait until the soldiers had left. Odeh said that while she was waiting, a single shot was fired at the taxi from the roadblock, injuring her boy who lay in the backseat.

An AP reporter saw a bullet hole in the trunk of the taxi.

Doctors at Rafidia hospital said the infant was hit by shrapnel in the abdomen and was in serious condition.

Also Saturday, shots were fired from a passing car at an Israeli bus on the outskirts of Jerusalem, said the city's police spokesperson, Shmuel Ben-Ruby.

A 6-year-old girl was moderately injured from a bullet wound to the stomach, hospital officials said. A man, 20, wounded in the knee, was also in a moderate condition.

First reports had said the girl was 2 years old.

The day's confrontations began just after midnight Friday when Israel forces briefly entered Khan Yunis and killed a Palestinian gunman in a firefight. Ten Palestinians were wounded in the second Israeli incursion into Palestinian territory this week.

At the man's funeral, mourners clamored for revenge, chanting:

"More suicide bombings." Marchers shot in the air and one masked man brandished a rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

Israel remains on high alert because of persistent attempts by the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups to carry out suicide bombings.

On Friday, Israeli security forces seized a car carrying a 10-kilo bomb and arrested the driver and a passenger, two Islamic Jihad activists from the West Bank, police said. *AP*

US fires being tamed

PORTLAND, Oregon—The number of US states ravaged by major forest fires shrank Saturday, as the growing army of firefighters succeeded in extinguishing some of the blazes, officials said.

But the situation remained dangerous in western Washington state, and thunderstorms sparked some additional blazes in Oregon, Montana and Nevada.

A total of seven states reported major forest fires late Saturday, down from 10 on Friday, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

"The fire situation improved everywhere except Washington state where significant fire activity led to several evacuations," the center said in a statement.

A mandatory evacuation order has been issued for the Cowichee Creek and Nasty Creek areas of Wenatchee National Forest in Washington state.

As many as 150 homes and other structures were threatened by flames in Okanagan National Forest.

Two new large fires were reported, one each in Oregon and Nevada, according to the center.

And another new large fire was added to the Werner Peak Complex in Montana.

More than 26,000 firefighters are assigned to wildland fires burning on 201,617 hectares throughout the country, the center said.

But windy conditions were expected to prevail in western Montana and northern Idaho, with the possibility of scattered thunderstorms, which could ignite new blazes. *AFP*

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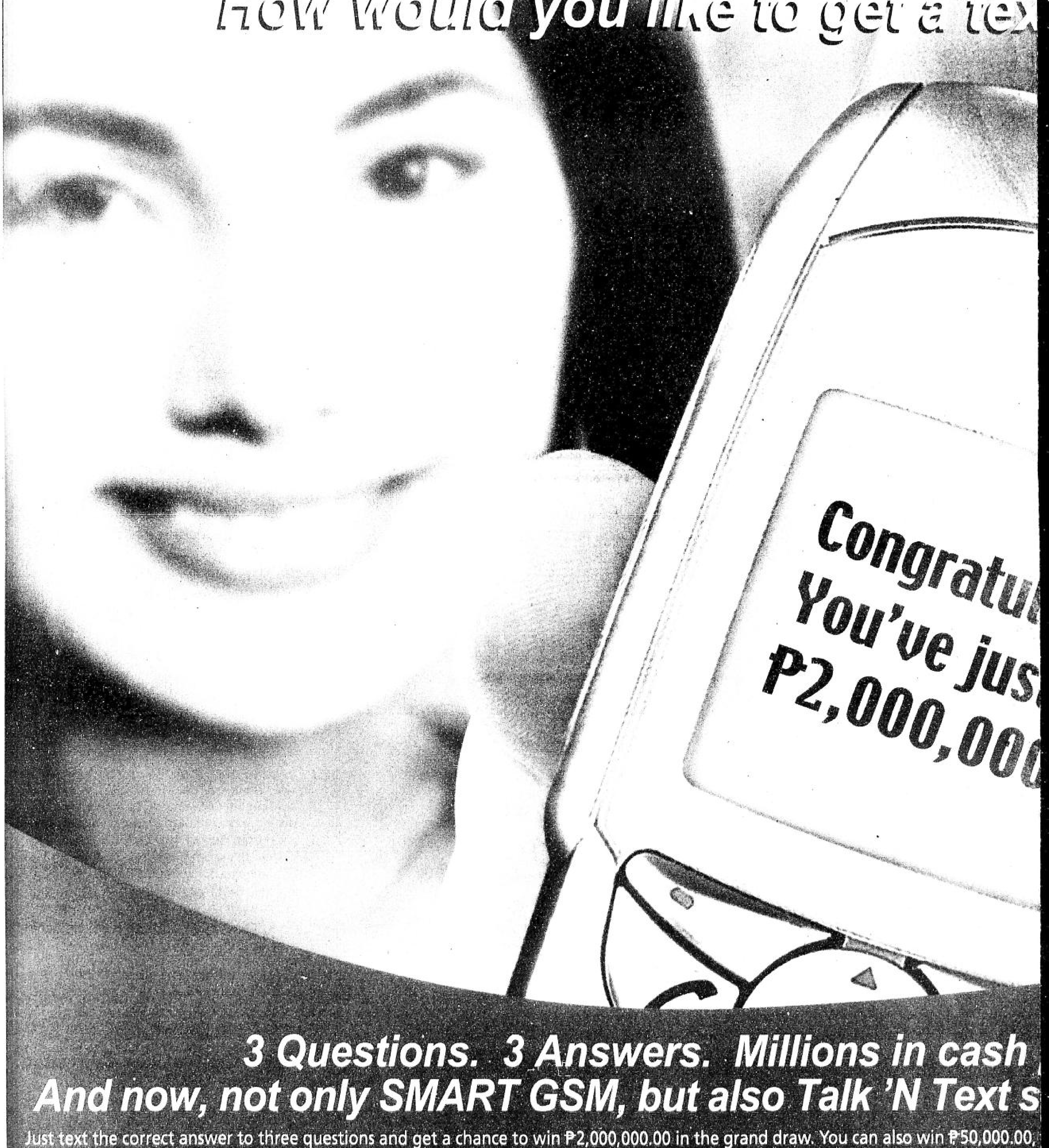

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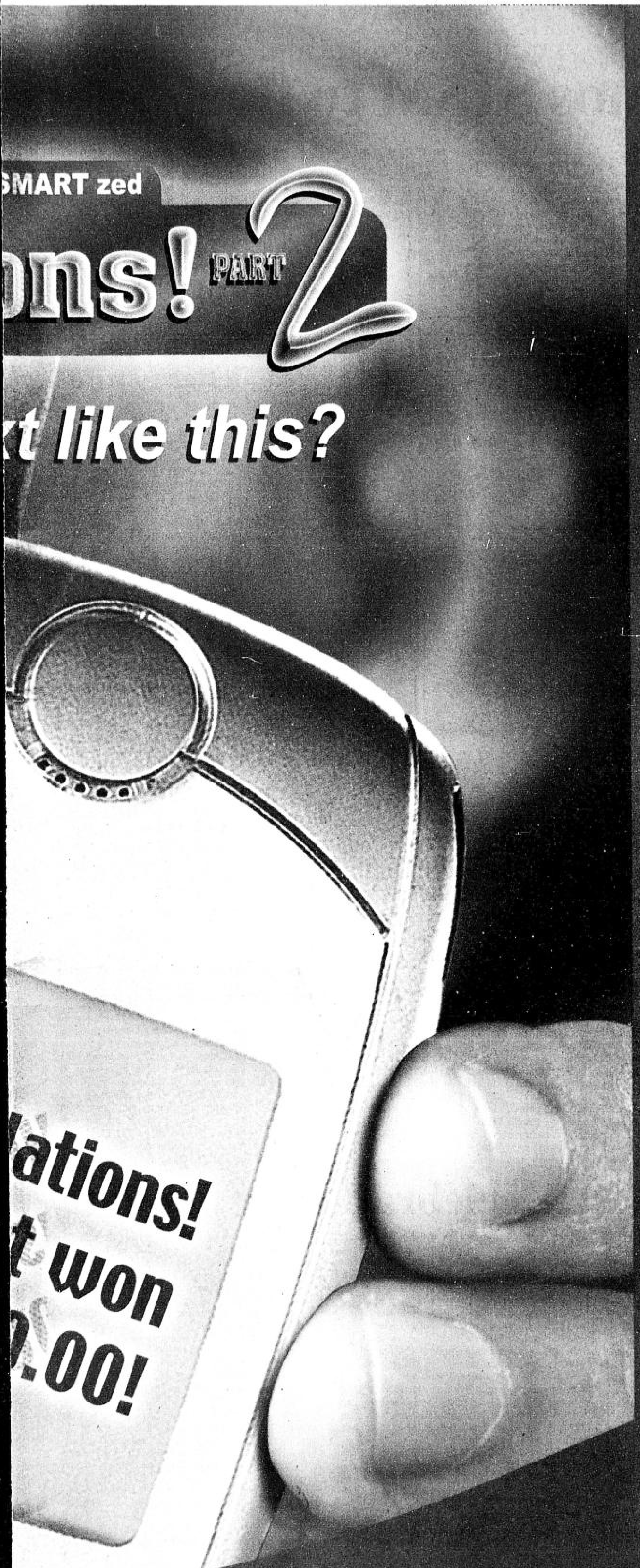

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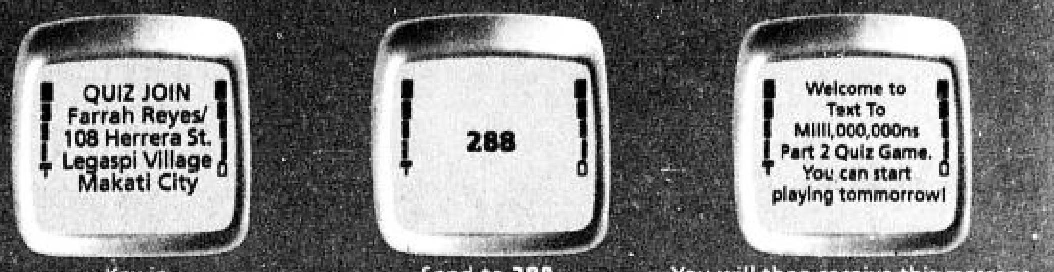
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Key in **QUIZ***space***JOIN***space***<name>/<address>**

Send to **288**.

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The cellular phone number will serve as the raffle entry identification (ID). There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber joins, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number unless he quits the game. In the event that the winning cellular phone number was registered under two users within the same month, the current registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several cellular phone numbers at one time.

TO RECEIVE THE DAILY QUIZ QUESTIONS

The participant simply registers and s/he will automatically receive the first question the following day. Questions will be sent to all registered participants everyday between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. This is free of charge.

In case a participant wishes to start playing even before s/he receives the first question or doesn't receive the question right away, s/he can pull the question by keying-in **Q** *and sending it to* **288**. *This is free of charge.*

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

Key in **QUIZ***space***<question number>***space***<answer>** Example: **QUIZ 1 A** and send to **288**.

If the participant's answer is correct, s/he receives a message of confirmation. Example: "Your answer was correct! Please wait for the next question." The next question will follow after the confirmation has been sent.

If the participant's answer is incorrect, s/he receives a message informing him/her that the answer given was incorrect. Example: "The correct answer is <letter>. Please wait for the next question." The next question will follow after the confirmation has been sent.

The participant will be charged ₱2.50 for each answer s/he sends to 288. The participant shall not be charged for questions received.

It is important that participants strictly observe proper keying in of keywords and spaces in order to avoid syntax error.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE RAFFLES

3 correct answers = 3 points = 1 raffle entry

In order to qualify for the day's raffle, the participant should answer all three (3) questions correctly before 12 midnight on the same day the questions were received. A maximum of one (1) raffle entry can be made in one day. *In the event that the participant fails to complete all three (3) correct answers for the day, his/her points will be carried over to the next day or until s/he completes three (3) correct answers within that same week. Participants may accumulate as many raffle entries as they can for the period of the week.*

TO VIEW RAFFLE ENTRIES

Key in **QUIZ ENTRY** and send to **288**. The processing of points and raffle entries earned by each participant is done every 12 midnight, at the end of each day. The participant should check his/her standing before answering the first question for the day. *Rate for Quiz Entry is ₱2.50.*

TO QUIT

(In cases when a participant wishes to register his/her cellular phone number under a different name or opts to quit the game)

The participant keys in **QUIZ QUIT** and sends it to **288**. To register the number under a different name, the participant should just repeat the registration steps. All valid entries made prior to quitting will still be included in the weekly, monthly and grand draw under the new registered name. *Rate for Quiz Quit is ₱2.50.*

TO VIEW GAME RULES

Key in **QUIZ RULES** and send to **288**. *Rate for Quiz Rules is ₱2.50* regardless of how many reply messages the participant receives.

TO GET KEYWORDS FOR THE GAME

Key in **HELP QUIZ** and send to **288**.

For more information, SMART and Talk 'N Text subscribers may call to make inquiries through *888 free of charge. Metro Manila subscribers may also inquire through SMART Customer Hotline number 888-1111 for free. For provincial subscribers they may call the local SMART Wireless Centers' for free. Local SMART Wireless Centers' telephone numbers are indicated in local flyers. They may also consult SMART's Customer Care Hotline through 888-1111 at regular NDD rates.

See flyers for complete mechanics.

Promo period, draw dates and prizes are as follows

WEEK	Period Covered	Draw Dates (MON)	Prizes
Week 1	August 20- August 26	August 27, 2001	₱50,000.00
Week 2	August 20– September 2	September 3, 2001	₱50,000.00
Week 3	August 20 – September 9	September 10, 2001	₱50,000.00
First Monthly Draw	August 20 – September 16	September 17, 2001	₱125,000.00
Week 4	August 20 – September 23	September 24, 2001	₱75,000.00
Week 5	August 20 – September 30	October 1, 2001	₱75,000.00
Week 6	August 20 - October 7	October 8, 2001	₱75,000.00
Second Monthly Draw	August 20 – October 14	October 15, 2001	₱200,000.00
Week 7	August 20 – October 21	October 22, 2001	₱100,000.00
Week 8	August 20 – October 28	October 29, 2001	₱100,000.00
Week 9	August 20 - November 4	November 5, 2001	₱100,000.00
Grand Draw	August 20 – November 11	November 12, 2001	₱2,000,000.00

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1279, Series of 2001.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHARGE

Fujimori paid Montesinos $15M to flee Peru

LIMA—Peru's attorney general has asked Congress to approve charges against disgraced ex-President Alberto Fujimori of paying his now-jailed ex-spy chief $15 million to flee the country, a legislator said on Saturday.

"This is an accusation for overseeing a secret decree, signed by (ministers) to give (Vladimiro) Montesinos $15 million to leave the country," Congressman Javier Diez Canseco said, adding the accusation needed to be approved by Congress before being sent to the Supreme Court.

The charges from Attorney General Nelly Calderon against Fujimori and three ex-ministers were for embezzlement and "illegal association," newspapers said.

Fujimori fled to Japan last year in a corruption scandal and was fired as "morally unfit.".

The hard-line 1990-2000 president is accused of signing a secret decree authorizing the golden handshake for Montesinos, who allegedly subverted many of Peru's politicians, judges and business leaders for a decade with bribes and back-room deals.

The $15 million was allegedly approved in September 2000, days after Montesinos was shown in a secretly-taped video paying an apparent bribe—a scandal that led to Montesinos fleeing and eventually Fujimori's ouster.

Immediately after the scandal, diplomats worried that if Montesinos stayed in Peru his tight control over the military would have further destabilized the Andean nation.

After dodging authorities for eight months, Montesinos was snared in Venezuela in June and now awaits trial on charges from murder to money laundering.

The funds signed for the ex-spy chief were purportedly destined to beef up Peru's northern border with Colombia. But instead, the money—$1.5 million for every year Montesinos served Fujimori—allegedly went to making sure he left Peru.

From Japan, in an open letter posted on his Web site, Fujimori said he knew "it was a mistake" not to have distanced himself earlier from Montesinos, whom he said "we would later find out became a millionaire."

Fujimori already faces dereliction of duty charges and Congress has also called on him publicly to defend himself on Aug. 27 against accusations he was responsible for massacres by an army death squad and disappearances.

Reuters

Aceh rebels reject Megawati's leadership

LHOKSEUMAWE, Indonesia—Rebels in Indonesia's battered Aceh province said on Sunday they could not work with new nationalist President Megawati Sukarnoputri and demanded foreign intervention to help end the bloodshed.

The Free Aceh Movement's (GAM) deputy military commander, Sofyan Daud, told Reuters in an interview at a secret location near here that the separatists did not trust the daughter of Indonesia's founding father, Sukarno.

Ending a long-running rebellion that has killed more than 1,500 people, most of them civilians, since January alone and threatens Indonesia's unity is one of Megawati's toughest and most urgent tasks.

"The policies of Megawati and her father only harm the people of Aceh and bear no fruit," said Daud, a pistol tucked into his jeans and surrounded by dozens of fighters carrying a motley collection of guns, some homemade, and rocket launchers.

"We will have no relations with Megawati."

However, Daud said GAM would press ahead with its so far fruitless peace talks with the Indonesian government—due to resume in September—despite Megawati's rise to power last month and the arrest of the rebels' chief peace negotiator.

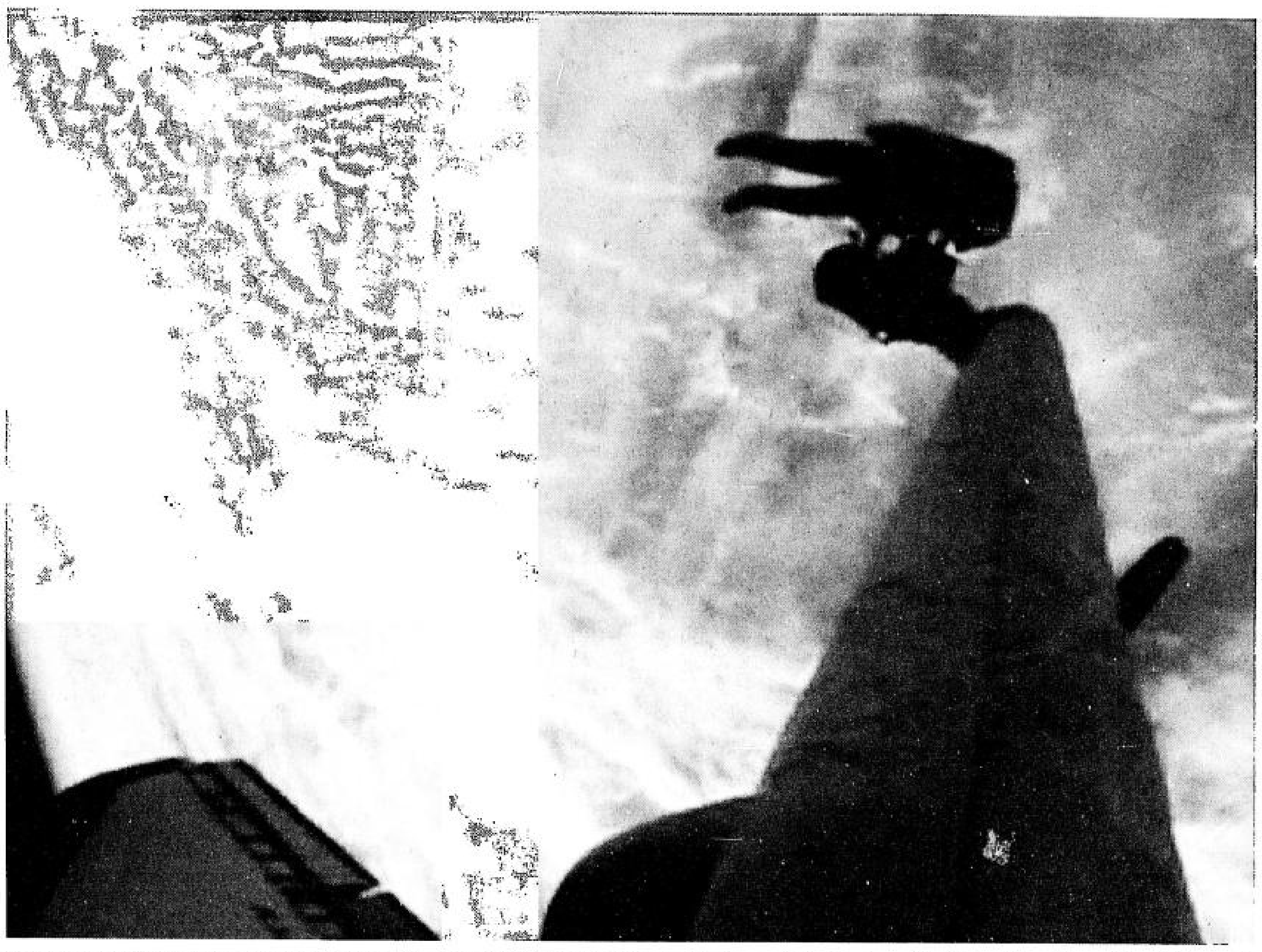
But he demanded international monitors to police any future ceasefire after the failure of previous agreements. The industrial town of Lhokseumawe lies to the east of the provincial capital Banda Aceh on the northwestern tip of Sumatra island.

"Of course we still want to continue the peace dialogue," he said, speaking in Acehnese.

"But we need an international forum to watch what the Indonesian soldiers do. We need an international body that can control and punish the Indonesian troops. They (Jakarta) talk peace, but their troops in the field don't follow the agreement."

Daud denied allegations his own men had committed human rights abuses.

Reuters



SPACEWALKER Daniel Barry is silhouetted on the end of the shuttle Discovery's robot arm with the Earth and the tail section of the orbiter visible in this view from television Aug. 18. Barry and Patrick Forrester completed the five-hour spacewalk to install handrails and lay cables to provide temporary power to the S0 truss to be launched later.

REUTERS

Astronauts complete second spacewalk

WASHINGTON—Astronauts from the US Space Shuttle Discovery completed their second spacewalk outside the International Space Station Saturday, after installing heater cables and attaching a series of handrails to the station's exterior, a Nasa spokesperson said.

It went "fine," said Kylie Moritz, a spokesperson for Nasa's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. "They completed all the tasks that they needed to complete."

During the five-hour-and-29-minute spacewalk, which wrapped up at 1911 GMT, astronauts Dan Barry and Patrick Forrester attached 11 handrails to the two sides of the space station's Destiny laboratory to facilitate their own and subsequent spacewalks by other astronauts.

They also laid heater cables for a truss to be installed at a later date as part of the system that routes heat and power around the station.

The heating will allow experiments to be carried out inside the laboratory at controlled temperatures, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said.

Making a full orbit of the Earth every 90 minutes, the station is exposed to extremes in temperature—without the protective atmosphere that moderates the extremes in the case of Earth.

Moritz said the crew members are now "working on transferring equipment and handing over between the two crews. As soon as the shuttle leaves, they'll start in on their experiments and their tasks."

Discovery, currently on the ninth day of its 13-day mission to the space station, is slated to undock from the station on Monday.

On their first spacewalk Thursday, Barry and Forrester installed an Early Ammonia Servicer, which contains spare ammonia for use in the station's cooling system.

AFP

Vatican shows archbishop's letter to wife

VATICAN CITY—The Vatican on Wednesday released what it said was the signed, handwritten letter of a married archbishop which said he was leaving his wife and returning to the Catholic Church.

The release was designed to rebut suggestions by Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo's wife that the Vatican had fabricated the letter or pressured Milingo to write it. The single-page letter, written in Italian, was signed "Milingo" and corresponded to the typewritten transcript released a day earlier by the Vatican.

In it, Milingo said he had decided to recommit his life "in the Catholic Church with all my heart, renounce my living together with Maria Sung and my relationship with the Rev. (Sun Myung) Moon and the Family Federation for World Peace."

"I am your humble and obedient servant," said the letter to the pope, dated Aug. 11.

The handwriting appeared to be similar to a document written by Milingo that was displayed earlier this week by a Moon spokesperson.

Milingo, who had already run afoul of the church for faith healings and exorcisms, scandalized the Vatican when he married Maria Sung, a 43-year-old South Korean doctor in one of Moon's mass weddings May 27.

The Zambian archbishop has said celibacy is poisoning the priesthood and that God's blessings were meant to be given through the family.

Both Milingo and Sung have dodged questions whether the marriage was actually registered. Moon doesn't sign any marriage licenses and leaves it up to individual couples to decide whether to legally register them, said a Moon spokesman, Rev. Phillip Schanker.

Sung also refused to comment Wednesday when asked whether she had been previously married, as some reports have suggested.

Milingo met with Pope John Paul II last Tuesday to explain his reasons for getting married. The visit came after the Vatican had threatened to kick Milingo out of the church if he didn't leave Sung by next Monday, sever his ties with Moon's movement, publicly promise to remain celibate and "manifest his obedience to the Supreme Pontiff."

AP

Pakistani doctor draws death for blasphemy

ISLAMABAD—A Pakistani court has sentenced a Muslim homeopathic doctor to death for making allegedly blasphemous remarks about the Prophet Mohammad in a lecture to his students, officials said Sunday.

Younis Sheikh, who was arrested in April, was also fined 100,000 rupees (about $1,500) for uttering the allegedly insulting remarks in a lecture he gave at a private college in Islamabad 10 months ago.

Sheikh was tried by a court headed by sessions judge Safdar Hussain Malik, and the verdict was announced late Saturday inside the high security Adyala jail in the nearby city of Rawalpindi.

Sheikh can appeal the verdict in the high court.

Dozens of people have been convicted under Pakistan's tough blasphemy law but so far no one has been executed, pending appeals.

Sheikh was arrested following a complaint lodged with the police by Maulana Muhammad Rauf, a leader of Islamic religious body the International Majlis Khatam-e-Nabuwwat.

AFP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 20, 2001
20th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Jdg 2:11-19*
Gospel: *Mt 19:16-22*

A young man approached him and asked, "Master, what good work must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Only one is Good. If you want to enter eternal life, keep the commandments." The young man said, "Which commandments?" Jesus replied, *"Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."*

The young man said to him, "I have kept all these commandments, what is still lacking?" Jesus answered, "If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all that you possess and give the money to the poor and you will become the owner of a treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me."

On hearing this answer, the young man went away sad for he was a man of great wealth.

Commentary

This powerful reading illustrates the deep desire of every person to be perfect, but it also describes the conditions for obtaining this perfection. Jesus asks for total detachment from all possessions, and to live only for the sake of the kingdom. The young man went away grieving because this was too much for him. This reading has a very rich history of interpretation in the countless people who did indeed give up everything and found perfection and happiness. It is an invitation to each of us to search for our true self in God, and a challenge to commit ourselves fully to what we are in the eyes of God.

Heavenly Father, in Jesus you have called us to a life of perfection. Set us free from ourselves so that we may be able to follow Him on this way.

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End of USSR: A celebration or lament?

BY JIM HEINTZ

MOSCOW—Ten years after the abortive coup that dealt a mortal blow to the Soviet Union, Russians are to gather Sunday to celebrate or lament and to reflect on the past decade that brought them freedoms many longed for and sufferings most weren't prepared for.

The largest assembly is likely to be outside the Russian White House, the towering riverside building where an anxious crowd watched Boris Yeltsin clamber atop a tank to denounce the putsch a few hours after state media announced that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had been placed under house arrest at his summer house by hard-liners opposed to his reform attempts.

The dramatic move by Yeltsin, at that time the president of the Russian Federation, one of the USSR's 15 republics, was a galvanic moment. By the time the sun set Aug. 19, 1991, tens of thousands of people had answered his call to resistance, building barricades around the building, which was where the Russian parliament met.

Two days later, the tanks withdrew, the coup plotters fled and Gorbachev returned to Moscow. But although he retained his office, his political and moral authority had dissolved. The Soviet republics, already straining at the leash of Kremlin control, lunged harder for independence; the three Baltic republics became new nations in short order and the rest broke free Dec. 25, 1991, when Gorbachev signed the Soviet Union out of existence.

Two years after becoming a symbol of triumph for Yeltsin, the White House became a grim emblem of his failures—blackened and broken by shells fired from tanks ordered in by Yeltsin to crush a rebellion by opposition legislators.

Pushkin Square, where another rally is to be held, also provides ironic symbolic resonance. It was a prime gathering point for dissidents during the years that Gorbachev relaxed controls on freedom of expression, but on Sunday it will host a gathering honoring the coup plotters.

But even that rally will be underlined with post-Soviet ambiguity. Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the nationalist firebrand who is to speak at the gathering, wishes the coup would have succeeded but welcomes the collapse of Communism.

"One should have gotten rid of the Communist Party, given up the unproductive Communist ideology, but preserved the country's territory, its army and the KGB," he told the Interfax news agency Friday.

The collapse of the Soviet Union was an exhilarating and wrenching experience for its 290 million people. Some thrived under new opportunities to speak their minds, start their own businesses and travel wherever they chose, but others saw their jobs disappear, their savings become near-worthless in economic crises and their pensions and salaries go unpaid for months on end.

Health care costs rose while the quality declined and gas and electricity supplies shut down as infrastructure deteriorated.

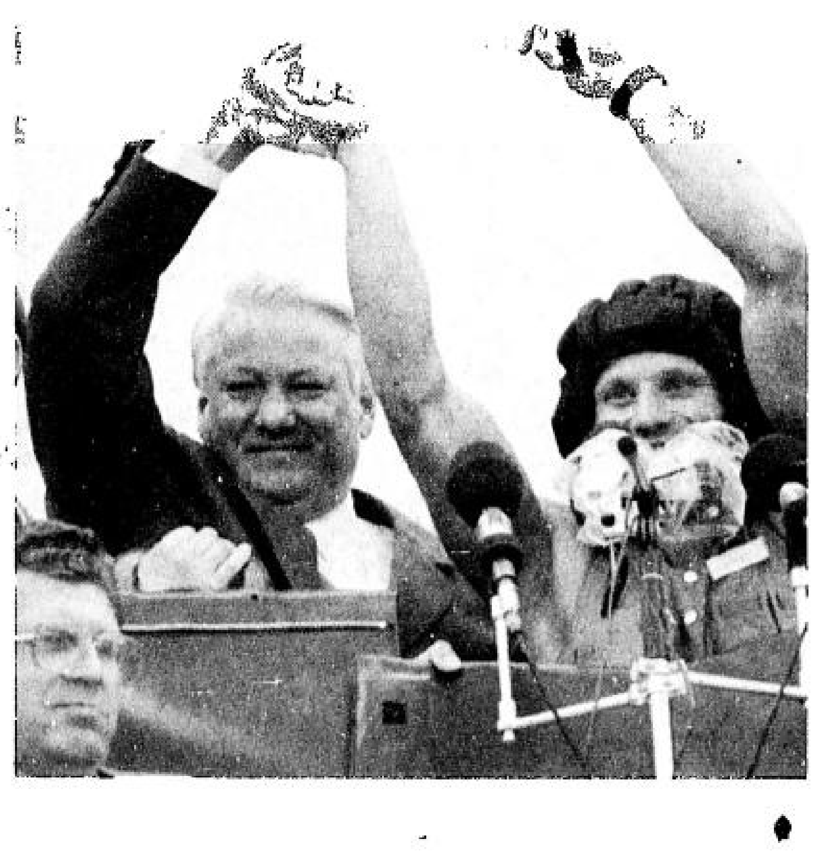
Separatist wars sharply increased the misery in Chechnya, Tajikistan, Georgia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Many throughout the former USSR are still reeling from the past decade's troubles. Few commemorations of the coup were planned outside Moscow: Estonian President Lennart Meri was to hold a dinner commemorating his country's 10 years of independence and Riga, the capital of neighboring Latvia, is holding a gala celebration of its 800th birthday.

Even in Moscow, ground zero of the epochal events, there was little sense on Saturday of the approaching anniversary. Muscovites desert the city in huge numbers on summer weekends, and the usually noisy and crowded capital had an air of lazy relaxation.

The newspaper Izvestia, once the government's main newspaper, marked the anniversary with commentary both serious and snide. The front page of its second section was a fantasy of what the paper might have looked like if the coup had succeeded.

AP



PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin (left) and a Soviet tank driver raise their hands in triumph and wave to supporters from the balcony of the Russian parliament in this Aug. 22, 1991 file photo.

REUTERS

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Conspiracy is the community of criminal intent—The essence of conspiracy is community of criminal intent. It exists when two or more persons come to an agreement concerning the commission of a felony and perform overt acts to commit it. The overt act may consist of active participation in the actual commission of the criminal act, or it may be in the form of moral assistance such as the exertion of moral ascendancy over the other co-conspirators by moving them to implement the conspiracy. Conspiracy may be proven by direct evidence, or deduced from the manner in which the offense was committed, as when the accused acted in concert to achieve the same objective. A finding of conspiracy results in grave consequences to the accused, as each is held responsible for the acts of all the con-conspirators which proceeded from the same criminal intent. Thus, it is required that conspiracy be established as any element of the crime and proven beyond reasonable doubt. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, People v. Tilos, G.R. No. 138385, January 16, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2001 A15

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Drugs bigger menace than kidnapping

Group claims 300-percent rise in number of users

DAVAO CITY—The illegal trade of drugs is now a crime worse than kidnapping as thousands of people fall victims to it each day, an official of an anti-drugs organization said Saturday.

Antonio Uy, national president of Kilos Laya Laban sa Droga (KILL Droga) said that each year, the number of drug users in the country increases at an alarming rate of 300 percent and it seems there is no stopping it.

The widespread use of drugs, according to Uy, has made illegal drug trafficking the most lucrative criminal business in the country today.

For this year alone, the revenue from sales from the illegal drug trade is expected to hit P300 billion or almost half of the national budget for 2001.

Uy said based on studies made by the police and their group, the number of drug dependents in the country reached about 2 million people, compared with only 20,000 persons in 1972.

He said teenagers account for the bulk of persons who use illegal drugs.

Supt. Akmad Mamalinta, police regional commander for operations here, said a study by the Dangerous Drug Board revealed that of the total number of drug users in the country, about 1.2 million are teenagers with ages ranging from 15 to 17.

"That is quite a fast growth rate and it's really alarming," Uy said.

He said another alarming fact is the growing number of executives of major corporations now hooked on drugs.

But he said they have yet to make a study to determine the actual number of executives using drugs although the "... signs are very, very dangerous."

"Drug abuse has slowly crept into our productive working force and soon it could affect our economy and political institutions. We are facing dangerous times ahead if we do not stop the problem now," he said.

Uy also said they suspect that a number of senior and middle-level career government officials are also into drugs. They are now consolidating information on officials.

Earlier, a Cabinet official was reported to be a drug user, prompting some of President Macapagal-Arroyo's men, including Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, to undertake drug tests.

Because of this alarming situation, Uy said KILL Droga has embarked on an ambitious drive to eradicate the problem by 2010.

He said KILL Droga officers and members would keep a tight watch on and fight the spread of drug use right in communities, schools and places of work.

Also, his group devised a reward system to put the ambitious plan into work.

A minimum of P1,000 to as high as P1.3 million in rewards await tipsters who could lead law enforcement agencies to successful operations against illegal drugs. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bailey bridge replaces span ruined by floods

SANTA, Ilocos Sur—With construction done round-the-clock and with foreign technology, the installation of a one-lane bailey bridge to replace the washed out portion of the Quirino Bridge here was completed on Saturday, a week ahead of its schedule.

The bridge, a vital link to the Ilocos provinces, was opened to regular traffic on Saturday afternoon, 45 days after strong currents of the Abra River spawned by "Typhoon Feria" washed out its 73.4-meter middle span.

Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano and Cabel Nurhjasen, deputy executive director of the presidential bridge program, led the opening of the bridge.

The 80-meter bailey bridge replacement, which was funded by the program, is the longest ever to be installed in the country, Nurhjasen said.

The Mabey and Johnson Ltd., a United Kingdom-based firm and the program's consultant, supervised the construction.

The Quirino Bridge, between Barangay Banaoang in Bantay town and Barangay Banaoang here, is the main link to the first district of Ilocos Sur, including Vigan City, and Ilocos Norte.

The bridge's opening came ahead of the assembly of a P1.9-million barge bought by the provincial government to ferry vehicles and commuters across the Abra River.

"It (barge) would be still useful. It would be used for other purposes like the planned floating restaurant below the Quirino Bridge," Savellano told the INQUIRER.

Personnel from the Task Force Banaoang were deployed to direct the flow of traffic in the bridge and to avoid overloading.

"We have to protect the old bridge, which has a 14-ton load limit," said engineer Prospero de la Cuesta of the Ilocos Sur first engineering district.

With the bridge's opening, prices of commodities in the Ilocos are expected to go down.

Since the bridge's middle span was washed out on July 4, prices of basic commodities in Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte increased by 10 percent to cover the additional expense in ferrying goods through boats and barges across the Abra River.

Prices of petroleum products also increased by P1 a liter.

Boatmen, who used to ferry passengers across the river, stopped their operations Friday as commuters were allowed to walk on the bridge. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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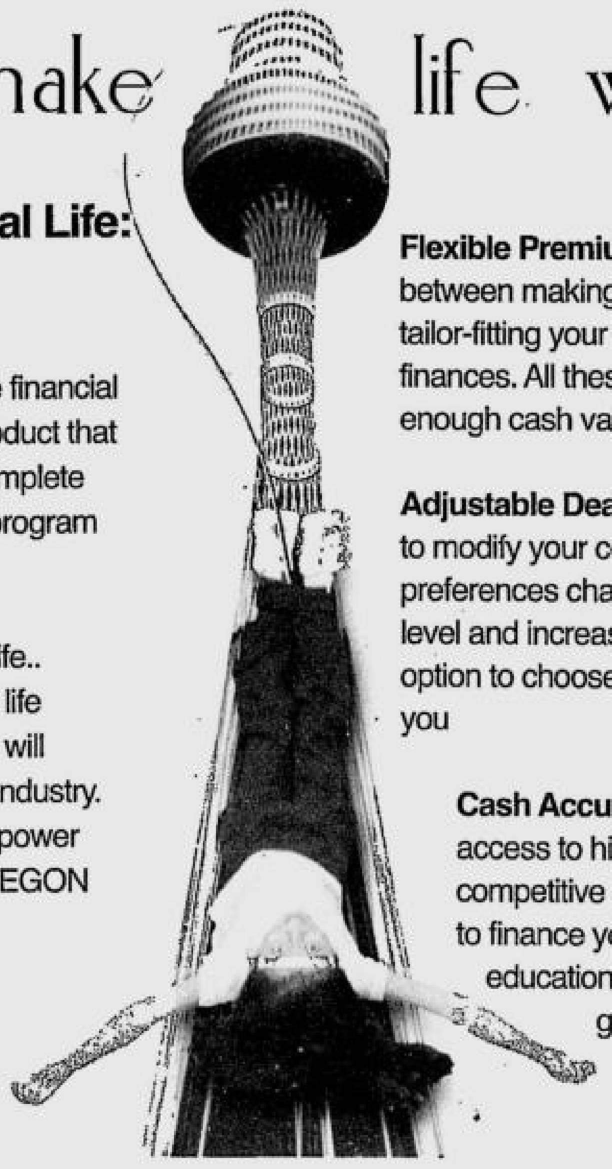

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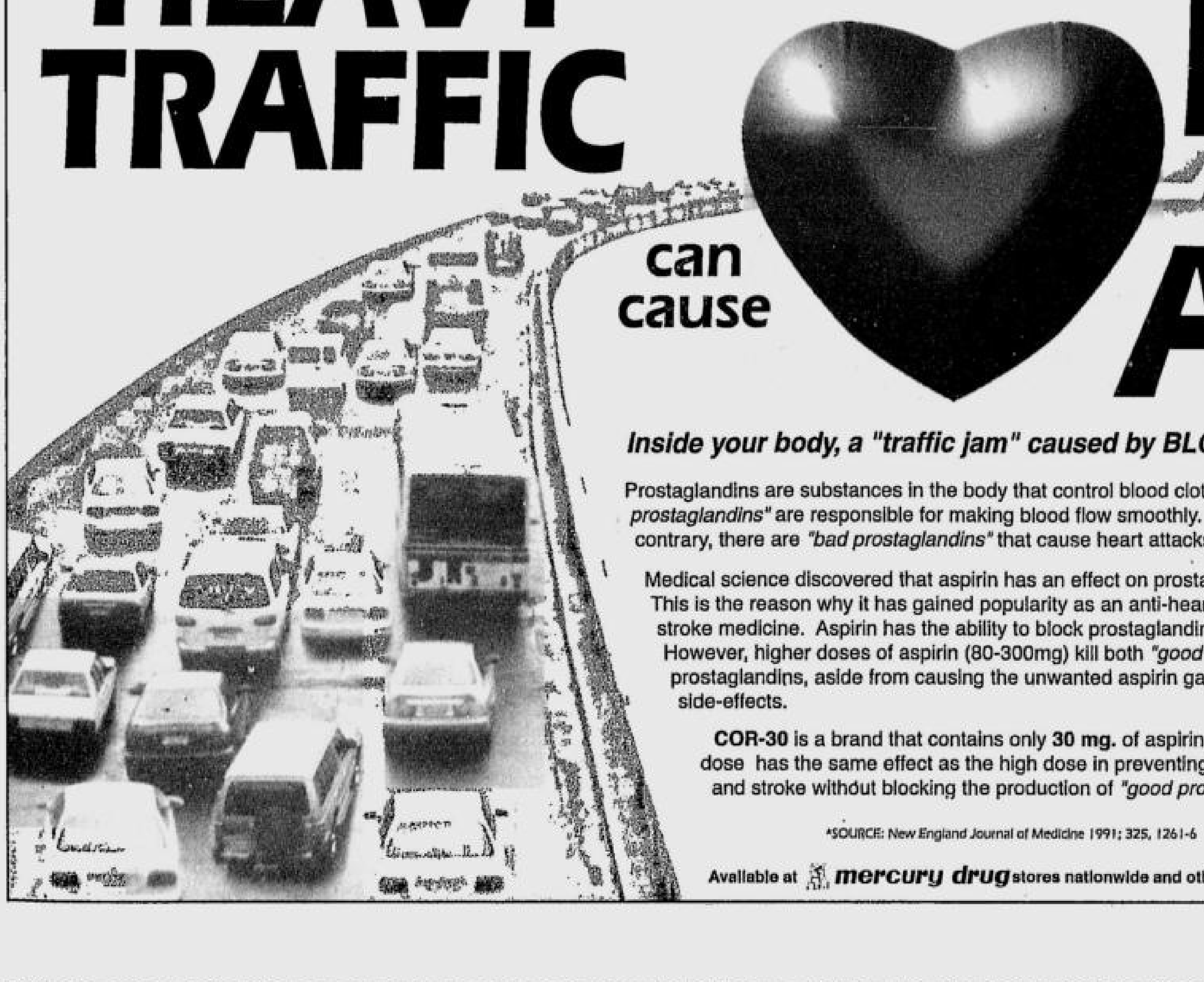

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*SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine 1991; 325, 1261-6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central Luzon, Southern Luzon and Visayas will have monsoon rains while the rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Monsoon rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Baguio	Monsoon rains	HI 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Monsoon rains	HI 28° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Monsoon rains	HI 26° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Monsoon rains	HI 29° Lo 26°
Calapan	Monsoon rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Monsoon rains	HI 28° Lo 24°
Roxas	Monsoon rains	HI 29° Lo 25°
Cebu	Monsoon rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Monsoon rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/08/19/01

ROUNDUP

Rice for auction

TACLOBAN CITY—The National Food Authority in Eastern Visayas (NFA-8) will auction off about 137,000 50-kilo bags of rice to licensed grains sellers in the region on Aug. 23. To be sold are 133,287 bags of imported rice and 3,812 bags of local rice. Alfeo Selpa, NFA-8 operations officer, said the rice may be bought at P14.50 per kilo but bidders can quote prices lower or higher than the starting price. The rice will be sold at NFA warehouses in Alang-alang and Baybay, Leyte; Maasin City, Southern Leyte; Naval, Biliran; Catarman, Catubig, Rawis, and Laoang, Northern Samar; Calbayog City, Samar; Borongan, Oras and Guiuan, Eastern Samar.
Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau

Child abandonment rap

TAGBILARAN CITY—A case of child abandonment was filed before the city prosecutor's office against a 23-year-old woman who left her new born infant in a grassy lot near a depot along Graham Avenue on Aug. 5. Janet, not her real name, of Carmen town, admitted in her affidavit that she abandoned her baby shortly after giving birth. SPO4 Rebecca Kibir, women's desk officer at the city, said Janet was identified as the mother of the abandoned infant on Graham Avenue through information provided by concerned citizens.
Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cops restricted

BACOLOD CITY—Two members of the 6th Regional Mobile Group (RMG) have been restricted to camp pending an investigation of Wednesday's killing of a barangay captain and the wounding of his companion in Victorias City. Supt. Felix Muchada, 6th RMG chief, also disarmed Insp. Ricardo Lanado, director of the 601st RMG, and PO1 Rolando Aranio. The two were among the four RMG members who figured in an alleged shootout with Barangay 20 chair Jerry Torenia and his close-in security, Johnny Dioneo. Torenia was killed on the spot while Dioneo suffered three bullet wounds in different parts of his body.
Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

MNLF men shoot each other

COTABATO CITY—Two members of the Moro National Liberation Front who were integrated into the police shot each other on Friday night after a heated discussion about the breakup of the rebel movement. Supt. Amerodin Hamdag, city police director, said PO1 Jojo Datukan Jr. was killed after he shot it out with PO1 Bashir Hajula, both of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police force. Hajula was in critical condition after suffering multiple bullet wounds. Datukan, a Maguindanaoan, was said to be supporting the 15-man executive council of the MNLF that ousted chairman Nur Misuari, who is also governor of the ARMM. Hajula, a Tausug, is a Misuari supporter.
Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

CBCP: Cloning immoral

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Cloning is immoral because human life, on account of its dignity and sacredness, emerges "in the context of the intimate conjugal love of two human persons, a man and a woman," according to an official of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, chair of the CBCP's commission on health, said human cloning is morally unacceptable because it renders "technological and manipulative" what should in fact be an "intensely personal and love-filled event—the emergence of a new human life."
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DILG nabs 20 in 'jueteng'

SANTIAGO CITY—Joint operatives of the Department of Interior and Local Government's Task Force Jericho and the police arrested last week 20 men suspected to be involved in jueteng operations here. Supt. Rodolfo Villano, city police chief, said the suspects were arrested in a house in Barangay Victory Sur here where a jueteng draw was being held. The raiding team confiscated P2,675.50 in bet money and other jueteng paraphernalia.
Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Passbook betrays robbers

LEGAZPI CITY—Police arrested two suspected robbers while attempting to withdraw P20,000 using a stolen passbook from a bank in Polangui, Albay. Brothers Christopher, 26, and Marion, 25, both surnamed Sabalan of Barangay Pintor, Polangui, were suspected of robbing the house of businessman Herman de Vera Tuesday night in Barangay Inapatan, Nabua, Camarines Sur. De Vera told police that two armed young men, wearing bonnets, barged into his house and held him at gunpoint. He said the two took his cell phone, pieces of household equipment and his wife's Golden Seven Bank passbook. Nabua town police caught up with the suspects who were attempting to withdraw P20,000 from the bank with the passbook bearing the name of Teresita de Vera.
Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

FUGITIVE NO MORE

Arrest order for mayor lifted

SANTIAGO CITY—A local judge lifted on Friday the two arrest warrants issued against Mayor Jose Miranda Sr. for double murder charges.

Miranda, who has been in hiding and the subject of a police manhunt since June 25, announced through his son City Administrator Joel Miranda that he would assume his post today.

In his 14-page decision, regional trial court Judge Anastacio Anghad declared the arrest orders, issued on June 25 and July 6, against Miranda "null and void."

Anghad said he found "compelling legal and factual grounds" to reverse the warrants issued by former RTC Judge Wilfredo Tumaliuan.

Anghad replaced Tumaliuan as presiding judge after Tumaliuan's retirement early this month.

Miranda has been in hiding since June 25 after he was implicated in the 1996 murder of a son of a suspected jueteng manager and his friend.

PO2 Rodel Maderal, who was a suspect in the case, accused Miranda of masterminding the murders of Elizer Tuliao and Vicente Bauzon. Their bodies were found charred in Barangay Purok-Ni-Bulan in Ramon, Isabela on March 7, 1996.

The court declared the warrants "cancelled, lifted, withdrawn . . . and consequently of no force and effect."

Anghad said a judge, before issuing a warrant of arrest, must satisfy himself that based on the evidence submitted, there is sufficient proof that a crime has been committed and that the person to be arrested is probably guilty.

Anghad noted that the prosecutor used Maderal's confession as the sole basis in finding "probable cause" against Miranda.

"It must be emphasized that judges must not rely solely on the report or resolution of the fiscal. They must evaluate the report (based) on the supporting documents," Anghad said.

The young Miranda said their family is very happy over the court's decision.

"*Sa dami ng problemang dumaan sa amin, hindi ko na ma*-express *ang sobrang ligaya naming pamilya* (After all the problems that affected us, I don't know how to express our happiness anymore)," City Administrator Miranda told reporters here.

Streamers were hung and placards were placed at the City Hall to welcome the elder Miranda.

But Virgilio Tuliao, father of the victim Elizer, said they were disappointed with the court order and were planning to file a motion to appeal Anghad's decision.

"It is totally painful for me and my entire family," Tuliao said in a radio interview.

He said his family still believes that "truth and justice will come out in our favor." ***Villamor Visaya Jr. and Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Waves destroy 53 houses in Davao City

DAVAO CITY—Waves whipped up by monsoon rains hit hard on 164 houses built on this city's coastline early yesterday, destroying 53 of them and causing damages to the rest.

The Davao City Disaster Coordinating Council (DCDCC) reported that 53 houses have been destroyed and 101 suffered varying degrees of damages as of 1 p.m. yesterday.

Pete Bucao, of the DCDCC operation unit, said six coastal barangays were affected by the monsoon waves, which usually strike during the months of July, August and September.

He identified the villages as Bago Aplaya, Mabini Boulevard, Jacinto Extension, Punta Dumalag, Seaside and two smaller communities in Bucana.

Initial reports said 63 families lost their homes. Some of them sought shelter in homes of relatives or friends, in village halls or in an evacuation center at the Almendras Gym.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who visited the affected families, directed social workers and disaster teams to immediately extend any assistance that the families would need.

Last month, a number of families also lost their homes due to strong monsoon waves at the start of the rainy season.

Duterte had ordered that the families be temporarily relocated to safer areas.

Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan said there are about 3,000 families living in coastal areas.

"The affected families are now being taken care of by the CSSDO and the disaster teams. But we cannot provide them permanent relocation for the moment because this would need huge funds," Bonguyan said.

In Cotabato City, a ranking civil defense official ordered the verification of a police report listing 66 people dead in the worst flooding to ever hit three coastal towns of Sultan Kudarat.

Lita Enok, Office of Civil Defense director in Central Mindanao, said she has asked the Sultan Kudarat police to counter-check the reported number of fatalities in Palimbang, Lebak and Kalamansig towns before she officially informs the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) about it.

Reports reaching her office here also disclosed that at least 32 hectares of farms in the towns were under water.

In Maguindanao, the number of displaced families of Sultan sa Barongis, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, Ampatuan, Pagalungan and Pagagawan towns grew from 8,000 to 10,293 as rivers and lakes continued to swell, flooding low-lying areas, Enok said.

She said in Sultan sa Barongis alone, nearly P5 million worth of crops and infrastructure projects have been destroyed.

"At least 30 barangays in Palimbang are under water, destroying four government installations," Enok said. ***Charlie Señase and Edwin Fernandez with reports from Anthony Allada and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

STREET PERFORMANCE RYAN LIM

A young woman and dozens of others as colorfully dressed as her take to the streets to celebrate the 16th Kadayawan sa Dabaw festival Saturday through dancing and street performances.

Smuggled rice floods Cordillera

BAGUIO CITY—Cheap rice allegedly smuggled from Vietnam and Thailand have flooded Cordillera markets, causing a decrease in the sale of local rice in the region, grains retailers said.

Danilo Desembra-no, president of the Grains Retailers Confederation here, also said smuggled rice sold at the city market has created unfair competition among retailers.

He said local rice retailers are losing at least 60 percent of their income daily.

"We used to sell 10 to 15 bags per day but now, we could hardly sell four bags a day," he said.

The situation has also alarmed National Food Authority officials here.

Genevieve Cortes, NFA general manager of the city, said smuggled rice here is the reason the sales of NFA rice are down. She said sales have decreased from 5,000 bags to 3,000 bags a day.

Desembrano said smuggled rice is sold at P800 per bag for the second class variety and P1,000 per bag for the first class variety.

Retailers bought these rice varieties at P500 per bag, he said.

He said retailers earn from P300 to P500 per bag from smuggled rice compared to only P50 per bag from NFA rice.

"Retailers know it is illegal but they have no choice, they also want to earn," he said.

The smuggling of rice has been the focus of attention recently of customs and police authorities. ***Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

MORE CASES REPORTED

DOH reiterates anti-dengue warning

By Joey Gabieta
and Vicente Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Health regional office (DOH-8) has reiterated its warning against dengue fever after receiving reports that the number of dengue cases increased to 392 with six deaths as of Aug. 18.

Annabel de Veyra, sentinel nurse of the DOH-8, said the number of dengue cases in the region increased to 392 or 140 cases more compared with the 252 reported two weeks ago.

The number of fatalities also went up to six after Jimuel Balsacao, a five-year-old boy from Taft town, Eastern Samar, died of dengue on Aug. 10.

The identities of the five fatalities reported earlier were not disclosed by the DOH-8 except that they were children with ages ranging from 3 to 14 years old.

Virginia Balsacao said her four other children were also afflicted with dengue. Roger, 17, and Rowena, 2, were still confined at the Divine Word Hospital while Rodeto, 15 and Roselle, 10 were already discharged from the hospital.

Hardest hit

Based on their monitoring, De Veyra said Leyte province has the highest number of dengue cases with 271 or 69 percent of the total number of dengue cases reported in the region.

Of the 271, she said, 159 were monitored in Tacloban.

There were 35 dengue cases received in Northern Samar, 34 in Samar, 27 in Eastern Samar, 15 in Southern Leyte and 10 in Biliran.

The region only had 267 cases last year. In 1998, the region experienced a dengue epidemic that afflicted 5,591 persons and claimed 39 lives.

Dr. Adelfo Labnao, DOH-8 dengue control program coordinator, said a dengue epidemic is anticipated to hit Eastern Visayas this year after their surveillance unit noted that the number of dengue cases rises every three to five years.

In preparation for this, Labnao said a double alert against dengue fever has been raised since early this year.

The number of dengue cases also continued to rise in other areas in the Visayas with 95 cases reported in Kalibo and in Capiz over the last two months.

More fatalities

Two persons were also reported to have died of dengue fever, one each in Kalibo and in Maayon, Capiz, over the last weeks.

The latest fatality was identified as Clarise Deocampo, 4, of Barangay Poblacion, Maayon, Capiz, records at the Capiz Provincial Health Office revealed.

Deocampo was among 35 persons afflicted with dengue fever in Capiz, health officials in the province said.

In Kalibo, hospital records showed that from June to early August, 60 persons had been hospitalized due to dengue fever, with one fatality.

But Dr. Landelino Meñez, Aklan's provincial health officer, said the situation in Aklan was still far from alarming.

Health officials, however, urged the public to take preventive measures.

They stressed the importance of cleaning homes and surroundings of possible stagnant water, the breeding ground of dengue-causing mosquitoes.

The situation is not encouraging in the Bicol region either.

Monitoring

The Department of Health Bicol regional office has ordered a close monitoring of dengue cases in the Bicol region after it recorded 219 diagnosed dengue cases all over the region since January this year.

This is a 39-percent increase compared with the number of dengue cases recorded in the same period last year.

The province of Camarines Sur recorded the highest number of victims with 109 reported cases; Albay, 66; Sorsogon, 19; Camarines Norte, 12; Masbate, 11; and Catanduanes, 2.

Compared to last year's first and second quarter report, during which February had the highest number of monitored dengue cases, the significant rise in the number of diagnosed cases for this year was recorded in July.

The DOH regional office recommended these measures against dengue:

- Continuous close monitoring of the incidence of dengue in other parts of the region.
- The stepping up of dengue surveillance by all hospitals that report admitting dengue-stricken patients and field workers who report treating them.
- Extending medical and technical assistance to the affected areas.
- Fumigating possible mosquito-breeding places and spraying with insecticides water or areas that now breed mosquitoes.

With reports from Marie Grace Antiga, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Odon Bandiola and Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Hybrid rice enjoys brisk Baguio sale

BAGUIO CITY—Rice retailers here said consumers are patronizing hybrid rice more for its quality than native rice varieties.

The hybrid rice, which costs P20 a kilo and sold commercially by local grains retailers, was criticized by Cordillera farmers here after they revealed in a study that hybrid rice varieties, such as IRc 64, have displaced indigenous varieties.

Danilo Decembrano, president of the Grains Retailers Confederation (Grecon) Baguio chapter, said retailers have reported the commercial success of the hybrid rice.

Decembrano said the hybrid rice, which usually comes from suppliers in Bulacan and Metro Manila, is competing with the National Food Authority rice in terms of sales.

"These are the high-quality rice varieties. They are easy to sell because (they are) very clean and (their grains) (are) white. Consumers like their delicious taste," Decembrano said.

In Baguio City alone, 400 bags of hybrid rice varieties are retailed and consumed every week.

In Benguet, however, consumers have not been receptive to hybrid rice because the NFA rice is still the most sought after variety, said Chito Wong, president of Grecon Benguet chapter.

The NFA rice, which costs P16 a kilo, is sold in most towns of Benguet. Hybrid rice is not delivered in the province's remote towns, said Wong.

The Los Baños-based organization Masipag, however, clarified that there is no distinct hybrid or NFA rice. The NFA buys and distributes all sorts of modern rice varieties, whether hybrid or high-yielding, from farmers in the Philippines and abroad. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Survivors of hotel blaze demand justice

(From page A1)

at the third-floor restaurant.

"I opened the door to look for the fire exit, but I was not able to get out of the room because the corridor was filled with thick smoke," Dumag said.

"I don't know what was burning but the smoke was not only thick and suffocating, it was also hot," he added.

Dumag said it was dark because the lights had gone out. Also, no hotel employees or security guards came to help them, he said.

Arson investigators said the hotel had no emergency lights, fire alarm or sprinkler systems. "So we decided to soak our clothes with water and cover our mouths with wet cloth to keep from suffocating," Dumag said.

Hanging like a monkey

One of his roommates broke the room's glass window by throwing a chair at it.

After clearing the shards of glass, the five men went out on the balcony. Luckily, the iron grilles were missing one bar, which left just enough space for a person to get through.

Dumag said it was then that he made one of the most fateful decisions of his life.

"I thought it would be worth the risk. With the blaze and the hot smoke at our backs, I decided to jump," he said.

As he plunged to the concrete pavement below, Dumag said he quickly realized that his chances of surviving the fall were slim.

Suddenly, he said, he felt an excruciating pain in his right foot. "I don't know how it happened but my right foot got snagged as it shot through the grilles of a fourth-floor room," he said, wincing.

Dumag said that despite the pain, he used all his strength to reach up for the grilles with his arms.

As he clung to the grilles, he realized he was in another precarious situation, he said.

"It took really long for the firemen to arrive. I was like a monkey hanging on to those grilles," he said.

Dumag said it took "maybe 30 minutes" for the first firetruck to arrive. Worse, the ladders of that and succeeding trucks were not long enough to reach him and the other victims awaiting rescue.

"The people in the street were cursing the firemen because they were not fast enough," he said.

While the onlookers were berating the firemen, they were encouraging the trapped victims above, he said.

Cries of hope

"Please don't jump! The rescuers are already here!" the crowd shouted.

"That gave us hope. I was not even able to thank those people," Dumag said, adding that he also prayed to God for strength.

Finally, a firetruck with a long ladder arrived. "I shouted, 'Over here, over here' to the firefighters," he said.

Rescuers took Dumag to the hospital where tests showed he did not suffer any life-threatening injuries but would have to remain there just the same until he fully recovers from his wounds.

Asked what he would say to hotel owner William Tan Genato, who was supposed to surrender last night, when he saw him, Dumag said he would ask for justice.

"I don't know what I would do if I saw him but I think those who were responsible for the fire should answer to the law," he said.

DENNIS SABANGAN

RESIDENTS living near the Quezon City Manor Hotel offer candles for those who died in Saturday's fire.

Justice is also what two Christian evangelists who survived the Manor Hotel fire want, saying they were willing to testify to the "negligence" of the hotel owner and the city fire department that led to the death of at least 72 persons.

The two, Alfred Briones and Albert Musngi, were part of a group of seven that was billeted in one room while they were attending an evangelical study in Metro Manila.

Pampanga delegation

Their companions—three pastors of the Jesus Is Lord Ministry in Pampanga—died in the blaze. They were Pastors Joel and Aileen Patio, a couple from the City of San Fernando, and Wilma Tayag of Mexico, Pampanga.

Briones and Musngi, together with Janice Quito and Joanne Pangilinan of Angeles City, escaped certain death when they managed to open the sliding door of Room 304.

It was the Patios—Joel, 24, and Aileen, 26—who roused the Pampanga delegation when the fire broke out, telling them to drink water and drench themselves in the shower before they tried to get out of the burning building.

Musngi said they lost track of the Patio couple when the smoke trapped them inside their room and the lights went out.

"We were groping for them, shouting their names but no reply came," Briones said.

The four realized they had little chance of surviving the ordeal, Briones said, as the hotel had no open fire exits, fire extinguishers or emergency lights.

The four, huddled together, groped their way toward the sliding door leading to the terrace. There they found themselves trapped again. An iron-grilled window kept them in. Behind them, the smoke was growing thicker.

"From the small terrace, we shouted for help. The people below looked up helplessly. We told the firemen to help us first because three of our companions might have already been killed," Musngi said.

Only smoke?

"A fireman told us, '*Wag na kayong mag-aalala. Wala ng apoy, usok na lang* (Don't worry. The fire is out, it's only smoke)," he said.

But it was asphyxiation from the thick black smoke that claimed the lives of their three companions, Musngi said, not hiding his anger and his tears.

"They came late, probably 30 minutes late. The help (from the fire department) came late," he repeated.

Resigned to their deaths, Briones said all four of them embraced, bade each other goodbye and spent their final moments praying and reciting verses from the Bible.

It was after help came, Briones said, that he realized "it was really negligence on the part of the hotel owner and the firemen that caused so many people to die."

Musngi said the firemen did not give them gas masks, which they had asked for. Their flashlights were also insufficient and the firemen were only armed with axes, he said.

"*Atras-abante sila. Oras ang binibilang—kulang ang kagamitan kaya, maraming buhay ang nawala* (They were unsure. It took hours—they lacked proper equipment, so many lives were lost.)," Musngi said.

At the Sindalan Memorial Chapel in the City of San Fernando, where the wake for the Patio couple is being held, Briones and Musngi vowed to testify in court or before any body that would investigate the tragedy.

"We are not simply criticizing or placing blame here. We just want the truth to come out. We want justice so this tragedy will not happen again. More lives will be (lost) if this is the way the government enforces safety standards for private buildings," Musngi told the INQUIRER.

Both Briones and Musngi said they were not asking for compensation for their suffering. They said what they want is for the hotel owner and Quezon City fire officials to be punished.

JIL members trooped to the memorial chapel on Sunday to condole with the relatives of the Patios. The couple left behind a 4-month-old child.

Mexico Mayor Ernesto Punzalan on Sunday urged Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. not to allow the case to be whitewashed.

"We are talking of lost lives here. *Hindi na ba tayo natuto sa* Ozone Disco (tragedy)? (Haven't we learned from the Ozone Disco tragedy)," Punzalan asked.

Isabela

In Isabela, former Santiago City councilor Miguel Amor Agustin, who lost three relatives in the fire, assailed the owners of the Manor Hotel for not assuring the safety of their guests.

Agustin's brother Renato, sister-in-law Elizabeth, and niece Cristina, were among the fatalities.

Agustin said his family would push for the prosecution of the hotel owner to determine the extent of his liability and to obtain compensation for the victims.

He said the Agustin couple and their daughter had been very active in their Christian fellowship.

The family, he said, regularly attended prayer meetings and seminars sponsored by the Jesus Is Alive charismatic movement.

Renato Agustin, of Calao East in Santiago City, was former president and general manager of the Consolidated Rural Bank of Cagayan Valley Inc. ***With a report from Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

QC Manor owner . . .

(From page A1)

He said it was a "logical conclusion" that corrupt city hall officials connived with hotel management, and vowed to "get to the bottom of this."

"Actually it would appear that Manor has been continuously violating all sorts of rules and nobody has been doing anything about it," he said.

Police have been ordered to seal off the city engineer's office "so that there can be no tampering of documents there," Belmonte said.

Coordinated effort

In Malacañang, the President directed the justice and local government departments to coordinate in the prosecution of those responsible for the fire.

According to Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, Macapagal wants the two departments to coordinate with Quezon City officials to prosecute local officials who failed to enforce the Fire Code.

"She has asked the DOJ secretary and DILG Secretary Jose Lina, who supervises the Bureau of Fire Protection, to coordinate closely with the local governments, especially in this case the QC government," Tiglao said.

Their action would ensure that "those officials responsible for negligence for not enforcing the Fire Code that led to this tragedy in QC be prosecuted," he added.

The President, Tiglao said, was "very saddened" by the incident. She visited the families of victims the other day, hours after the victims were pulled out of the hotel.

The chief of the task force created to investigate the accident said "we will try our best to finish it today (Sunday) and file a case with the city prosecutor's office early morning tomorrow (Monday)."

Senior Supt. Romeo Villafuerte said city engineers, license officers and other officials "who issued pertinent documents to Manor" might also be asked to give statements.

Radio reports alleged that the hotel management had paid bribes to officials for turning a blind eye to violations of safety regulations.

Interior Secretary Lina had given the task force "only 48 hours" to finish the probe and transmit findings to prosecutors, Villafuerte said.

Charges mulled

He said Genato "could be charged with multiple homicide resulting from negligence and recklessness."

"The prosecutor will be the one to name the case. There were many violations of the Fire Code," he said.

"That building was really a firetrap. I pity those people who were trapped in there," Villafuerte said.

Jaraza explained that the police were preparing a consolidated case of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and physical injuries.

"This would eventually include all the violations that his hotel failed to address," Jaraza said.

He explained that his men went to Genato's house on Maginhawa Street in Barangay Central, but the suspect's wife Rebecca had told them that her husband was not home.

Agents also went to Genato's farm in Meycauayan City in Bulacan, but did not find the suspect there.

The police vowed to launch a massive hunt against the suspect if he does not show himself in the coming days.

Death toll

The BFP firmed up the official death count at 72 after victim Marianne Perez, 27, died of respiratory complications at the East Avenue Medical Center yesterday afternoon.

City officials yesterday placed the death toll at 75. About 50 more hotel guests were injured.

Dr. Joseph Bacareza of the BFP emergency medical service said that only 12 of the 72 victims remained unidentified. The 12 victims included a woman, the only fatality whose body was severely burned.

The bodies were brought to the Dayao Funeral Homes Inc. at No. 2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City.

Tess Perez of the Dayao Funeral Homes said four victims were identified yesterday by their relatives as Rowena, 18, and Daylen, 45, both surnamed Mina and of Nueva Ecija; Hadson Bondocoy, of Pangasinan; and Victoria Tena, of Quezon.

She added that the city government shouldered expenses for the victim's autopsy and embalming.

Bad news

Former Rep. Edcel Lagman yesterday hit Mayor Belmonte for doing a Pontius Pilate in connection with the hotel blaze.

"He should not merely assume the role of a reporter of bad news and a coroner's agent counting dead bodies," Lagman said.

Lagman, who lost in the congressional race in the city's fourth district in May, said Belmonte could not excuse himself from the tragedy.

The mayor, he said, allegedly failed to check if establishments had complied with the Fire and Building Codes when he assumed office last month.

"He is responsible from Day One of his incumbency for major occurrences and tragedies in Quezon City traceable to culpable official neglect," Lagman said.

He called for an investigation of Belmonte and other city officials to determine their liabilities in the accident.

In another statement, former vice mayor Charito Planas asked Belmonte to start conducting an "honest-to-goodness" inspection of all buildings in the city.

She proposed, however, that Belmonte start with City Hall. She said the 14-story building lacks sprinklers and fire hoses on each floor while its fire hydrants don't have running water.

"It is itself a fire hazard," she said in a telephone interview. ***With reports from Christian Esguerra, TJ Burgonio, AFP, Reuters and AP***

Erring motorists filmed

(From page A1)

The Patnubay sa Kaunlaran ng Tagaytay Foundation Inc. has donated a Sony Handycam to the city police after reading an INQUIRER story about how the lawmen have been implementing traffic regulations without fear or favor.

Chief Insp. Sheldon G. Jacaban, Tagaytay police chief, had said he planned to buy a video camera to deter obnoxious drivers from harassing his men.

During a recognition program last week, foundation president, former first lady Amelita Ramos, lauded the men and women of the police force for their outstanding accomplishments. These included the strict implementation of the law, quick response to calls for assistance and discipline within the force.

The foundation also recognized the police for putting up a cooperative that its members could turn to if they needed financial assistance.

Ramos expressed hope that the donation would help the police improve their job.

"While we hear a lot about misguided elements in the police force, we are here honoring our Tagaytay police," Ramos said during the program.

The foundation also donated flashlights and raincoats.

Tagaytay exemplifies not only an ideal harmonious relationship between the police force and the civilian population it has sworn to serve. There is also a good working relationship between the police and the local government.

Counterpart fund

The city government under Mayor Francis Tolentino had given P40,000 as counterpart fund to the police cooperative.

Tolentino is also proud that the city has eight police cars to cover the city's land area of 6,615 hectares. He noted that some places in the country didn't even have a single patrol car.

The policemen in Tagaytay actually started using a video camera during their traffic duties a few months back. The camera belonged to Jacaban, who bought it on credit.

Jacaban believed that a video camera would help his men in dealing with rude drivers or, in some cases, their even more ill-mannered passengers. Once the drivers start arguing with the apprehending officer, another policeman can use the camera to record the incident.

Jacaban believed that this would deter the drivers from prolonging what was inevitable—the issuance of a ticket—and provide protection to the police from possible accusations of harassment.

Jacaban said his theory proved correct.

When his men started using the video camera, there were fewer arguments and the drivers yielded more quickly.

But some drivers were not intimidated.

One female driver, who was flagged down for violating a traffic regulation, kept on shouting at the policeman pointing the camera at her.

"*Hindi mo ba kilala kung sino ako*? (Don't you know who I am?)," she said.

But, as they had been trained to do, the policemen refused to be cowed and issued a ticket to the woman.

Discipline

The police have been so consistent in implementing the law that drivers who regularly travel to the city have by now learned to obey traffic regulations.

"Drivers here are more disciplined now," Jacaban said when asked if there was an improvement in traffic discipline since April when the INQUIRER first visited to write about his traffic management program.

In April, the police had been issuing more than 25 traffic tickets a day.

Today, they still have the same average, but around 90 percent of the drivers apprehended now are not Tagaytay "regulars."

The city traffic management program has been so effective that the Cavite police have decided to replicate it in the entire province.

Province next

Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., Cavite police chief, said a province-wide traffic ordinance would soon be submitted to the governor's office and, hopefully, passed by the provincial council.

At present, he said, only Tagaytay and Dasmariñas have their own traffic ordinances.

NUBAY SA KAUNL NG TAGAYTAY FOUN
RECO TION/AWAR
TAG Y PN

CHIEF Insp. Sheldon Jacaban, police chief of Tagaytay City, receives an award and a video camera from former first lady Amelita Ramos, president of the Patnubay sa Kaunlaran ng Tagaytay Foundation Inc., during a recognition program last week.

MIKE ALQUINTO

"If it can be done in Tagaytay, we don't see why it can not be done elsewhere," Pagdilao said of traffic discipline.

"Today Tagaytay, tomorrow Cavite," he said.

While the rest of the province is set to follow suit, Tagaytay is already moving forward.

Jacaban is organizing a community-based radio communication system that will connect business establishments to the police station by two-way radio. Through this system, the police can respond more quickly to calls for help.

Jacaban showed the INQUIRER police records that indicated how several crooks were swiftly apprehended because the victims called the police immediately after crimes were committed.

At present, police response time is three to five minutes, Jacaban said.

He said the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has pledged to put up a base radio in the police station. The commercial establishments will buy their own radios that will be connected to the police facility.

Velarde slips: GMA still Vice President

(From page A1)

Velarde is a known supporter of deposed President Joseph Estrada, the man Ms Macapagal replaced after "People Power II," a peaceful popular uprising in January.

His group, which numbers some six million worldwide, votes as a bloc for whomever Velarde instructs them to vote. Unlike the Estrada administration, El Shaddai is known to have withheld its support from the present dispensation.

As if her host's slight was not enough, the President found herself sharing the stage with two prominent members of the opposition, one of them a touted contender for the presidency in 2004 against Ms Macapagal herself.

Controversial Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito sat one and two chairs away, respectively, on either side of the President in the front row on the stage.

Between Ms Macapagal and Lacson sat Velarde.

In her speech, Ms Macapagal acknowledged the presence of Lacson and Ejercito.

Before that, during the Mass, the President shook Lacson's hand and touched cheeks (*beso-beso*) with Ejercito during the part where worshippers give each other a sign of peace.

Ms Macapagal delivered most of her speech in Filipino, quoting from the Book of Ecclesiastes about the time for unity and peace coming, but only according to God's plan.

"It is not for us to choose that time. It is God, the most powerful of all, who will choose that time," the President said.

The prayer rally was also held to commemorate Velarde's 62nd birthday today.

'Wicked ways'

"If we cry out to heaven and pray and turn from our wicked ways, then it will heal our land, it will heal our broken land," Ms Macapagal said, quoting from the song "Heal Our Land."

Lacson and Ejercito have been accused of having millions of dollars in questionable bank accounts abroad.

The investigation by military intelligence that ferreted out this information was reportedly known to the President as early as February.

The accusations have resulted in a Senate hearing that is riveting the country in much the same way the impeachment trial of Ejercito's husband, Estrada, did in late 2000 and early this year.

Also present at the celebration held at the Luneta were Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, National Labor Relations Commission chair Roy Señeres and National Electrification Administration chief Manuel Sanchez.

The Mass, which was officiated by Bishop Teodoro Bacani, also saw the mass wedding of several El Shaddai members.

2 Sino hostages killed

(From page A1)

wounded in the firefight but the Army soldiers were able to rescue him after he played dead.

Piñol said the President had ordered the military to step up operations to rescue Zang Zong Quiang, executive director of China Import Export Technologies, and Ed Lim, a Chinese-Filipino trader based in Davao City.

Zang Zong Quiang was abducted on June 20 in North Cotabato. The kidnappers released to the local press a video tape footage of Zang Zong Quiang looking haggard and 15 heavily armed men surrounding him.

The kidnappers originally demanded $4 million and threatened to behead their hostage if his company did not pay the ransom.

On Aug. 12, Lim accompanied Zang Zong Yee, Wang Shung Li and Zho Zhing to the remote village of Datu Paglas in southern Maguindanao to deliver a P5-million ransom to the kidnappers.

After receiving the money, however, the bandits decided to kidnap the four men. Zang Zong Quiang was not with the kidnappers during the payoff.

Piñol denounced China Import Export Technologies Inc. for allegedly secretly negotiating with the kidnappers in contravention of the government's "no ransom" policy.

The kidnappers, led by Abu Hamsa and Tahir Alonto, subsequently demanded a $10-million ransom for the safe release of the five hostages.

The Philippine and Chinese governments, however, rejected the demand, saying they will not pay a single centavo to the kidnappers.

The bandits asked the Libyan Embassy to intercede in the case, but it refused to get involved.

Maj. Julieto Ando, an Army spokesperson, told reporters in Cotabato City that villagers had tipped off the military about the presence of 50 heavily armed men and their Chinese captives.

About 100 soldiers were immediately sent to the area where a gun battle ensued.

Ando said that at least six kidnappers were killed. Soldiers, backed by a helicopter gunship, pursued but failed to find the other kidnappers and their two remaining hostages.

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, earlier said the military could not launch an operation against the kidnappers for fear of clashing with forces of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front operating in the area.

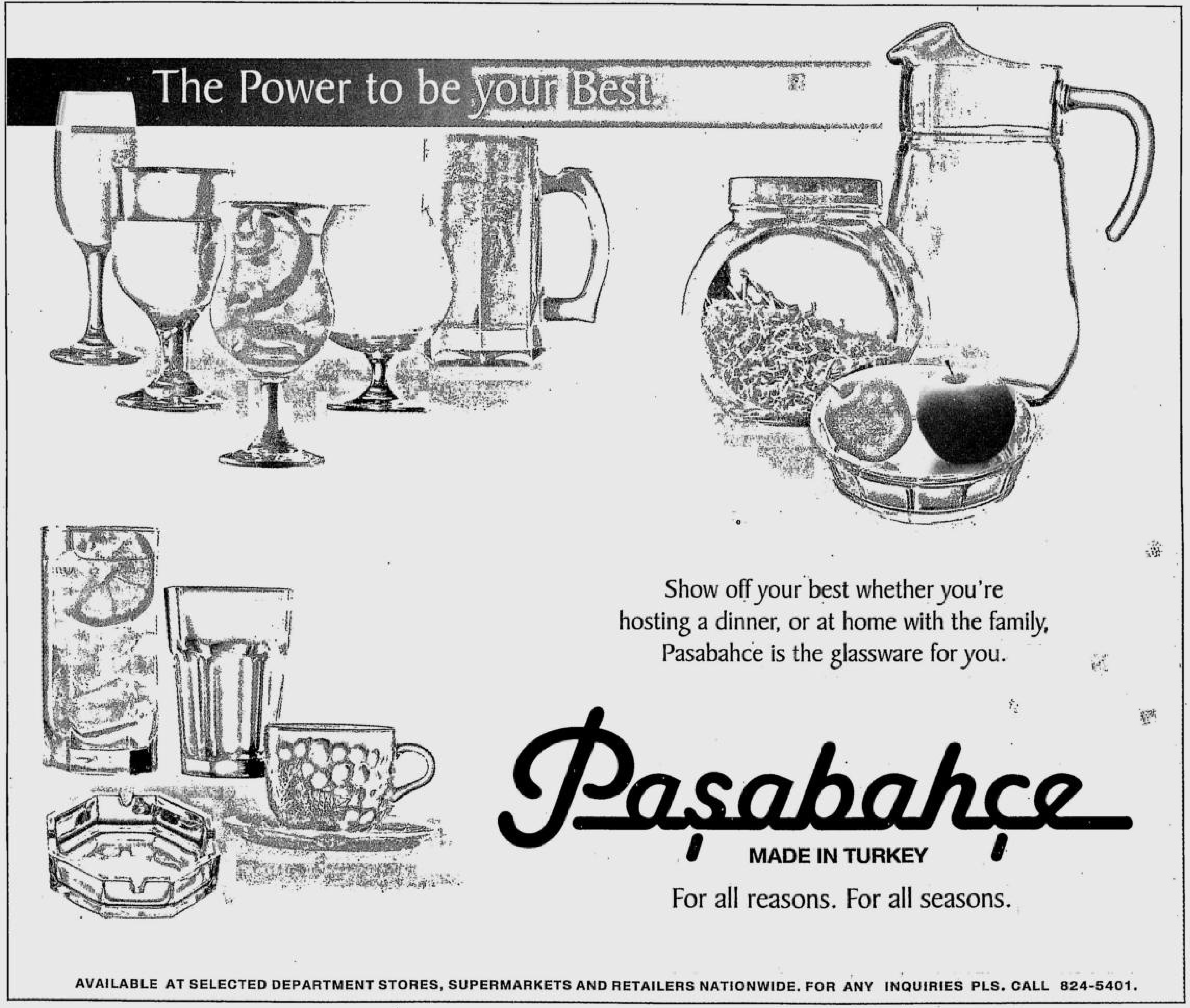
The kidnappers are believed to be former members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that is engaged in peace talks with the government.

Hamsa, one of the leaders of the kidnapped gang, has admitted to being a former MILF member who resorted to banditry after the government reneged on its promise to find him a job when he surrendered years earlier.

The government peace panel has cleared the MILF of involvement in the abductions, saying the rebel leadership had offered help in searching for the hostages.

But the military warned the MILF leadership to control their field commanders, amid reports they were continuing to harass villagers despite the truce.

"The MILF leadership should take steps to control their field troops and refrain from engaging in violent acts," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said in Manila. ***With reports from AFP and AP***



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Sky Hawk triumphs

TOP favorite Sky Hawk, taking advantage of Silver Story's absence, ruled the Lakambini Stakes race with ease yesterday at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

The two-time runnerup to Silver Story in the recent Triple Crown hostilities finished the 1,690-meter race three lengths clear of Serena.

Handled by veteran Joe Noel Camu, Sky Hawk bagged P450,000 for former Philracom chair Augusto Benedicto "Ochie" Santos. Winning time was 1:46 flat (28.5-26-24.5-27.5), just a second off Real Top's record set in the Time Master Handicap three years ago

Biagan rules triathlon tilt

DAVAO CITY—Series leader Abel Biagan of Cebu City tightened his hold of the lead in the OHM National Age Group Triathlon Championship series 2001 after winning yesterday's third leg here.

Behind by around four minutes to erstwhile pacer Sean Lim from Manila after the 750-m swim and 20-K bike, Biagan took advantage when Lim lost his way early in the 5-K run, allowing Biagan to catch up and eventually pass him for the lead at the 2km mark.

It was Biagan's race from there as he went on to finish the event all alone in 1:12.17 to Lim's 1:15.09.

With the victory, Biagan jacked up his total points to 285, practically winning the series which rewards the champion with a trip to the Asian Triathlon Championship next year in China, according to Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) president Tom Carrasco.

MBA SERIES TIED

San Juan steals Game 2

GAME WEDNESDAY
(San Juan Gym)
5 p.m.—Andok's San Juan vs Negros

By Roy Luarca

BACOLOD CITY—The Andok's San Juan Knights shattered the Negros Slashers' myth of invincibility at home with an 86-72 victory last night, tying their MBA First Phase title series at 1-1 at the University of St. La Salle Gym here.

Pouncing on Negros' sputtering offense, San Juan took control by halftime and never let up to snap the Slashers' seven-game winning streak at the venue and gain the homecourt edge in the best-of-five playoffs.

The Knights could abort the series if they win Games 3 and 4 at the San Juan Gym on Wednesday and Friday. If Negros succeeds in stealing one game, the series returns to the USLS Gym for the clincher on Sunday.

Chito Victolero and Chris Calaguio lived up to their roles as San Juan's main men by drilling in the points and orchestrating the plays that prevented Negros from waging a comeback after falling behind early in the game.

Fully rested after losing Games 1, 93-75, the Knights played with more intensity and vigor, breaking out of the last tie at 30 behind Victolero's perimeter jumpers and timely drives.

A corner jumper by Calaguio bounced twice trickling in, beating the buzzer and giving San Juan a 42-35 lead at halftime.

Victolero wound up with 17 points, 9 steals, 7 rebounds and 6 assists, sharing player of the game honors with Calaguio, who had his most productive game against the Slashers this season with 24 points on top of four rebounds and two assists.

Fajardo passes away

HARDCOURT legend Fely Fajardo passed away peacefully yesterday at his Mandaluyong residence after a lingering illness.

Fajardo, a member of the sports Hall of Fame and a 1948 London Olympian was 85.

Fajardo's remains will be transferred to the Sanctuario de San Jose in Greenhills. He is survived by wife Joaquina and daughters Ma. Corazon, Ma. Rosario and Ma. Teresa, grandchildren and brothers Bert, Gabby and Frank.

Bonifacio Escoda

Southwoods beats Riviera for 3rd win

SOUTHWOODS survived a big scare from former champion Riviera, winning two matches on the last hole for its third consecutive win in a rainy Week 4 of the 2001 Federation League eliminations.

Larry Tojino and Jimmy Borromeo took the high-low match via a 1 up decision and Marty Ilagan and Butch Brodett also settled the aggregate issue in the same manner to highlight a 4-0 rout.

As expected, Angelo Que and Jerome Delariarte played big to lead partners Jojo Lee (scramble) and Boy Escano (best ball) to victory in Group I.

Sta. Elena, still smarting from its big loss to Riviera last week, regained lost ground by defeating Orchard, 3-1, in the 14-team tourney featuring teams from the country's most exclusive clubs.

Typhoon Jolina disrupted the league's schedule as the Wack Wack-Forest Hills duel and the Manila Golf-Canlubang showdown were postponed due to bad weather. Group II leader Mt. Malarayat and Mimosa were set to play yesterday.

The Sta. Elena squad assembled a potent force that got the needed three points for a victory.

Jingy Tuason and William Chua (best ball) and Jackie Arellano-Luigi Tabuena (high-low) demolished their rivals via 5-4 decisions.

Iggy Clavecilla and Ed de Leon took the Fror Orchard, Timmy Owyong and Rene Unson averted a shutout loss when they took the aggregate fight.

Southwoods' first two victories had come at the expense of Sta. Elena and Eastridge.

August Fore! slated

A BRAND-NEW Mitsubishi car and many other merchandise items are up for grabs in the 2001 edition of the August Fore! Invitational golf tournament, organizers announced yesterday.

The tourney which has drawn the support of Portals as major sponsor and San Miguel Corp. and Nestle Phils. as minor sponsors, will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 29 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

August Fore! is an annual project of the Rotary Club of Diliman District 3780 and held as a tribute of PDG Melito "Bimbo" Salazar Jr.

Funds raised from the tourney will be for the benefit of the Rotarympics and other RC Diliman projects as well as the Tib-Ong Scholarship projects.

The Mitsubishi car donated by Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Inc. will be at stake as a hole-in-one prize on a designated hole. There will be team (three to play, two to count) and individual competitions.

For inquires, interested parties may call Global Sports at 4351943 or 4330782, look for Gary or Lyn.

RP team to Korea

A JUNIOR Golf Foundation of the Philippines team flew to Seoul, Korea yesterday to compete in the 3rd Minister of Culture and Tourism Cup International Junior Golf Championships.

Sorenstam, Robbins up

MARKHAM, Ontario—Annika Sorenstam shot a course-record 8-under-par 64 in perfect scoring conditions Saturday for a share of the lead with Kelly Robbins in the Canadian Women's Open.

Sorenstam, who began playing five strokes behind Robbins and Rosie Jones, hit all 18 greens in regulation in her bogey-free round to match Robbins at 13-under 203 on Angus Glen's South Course.

"I'll take 18 birdie chances any day," Sorenstam said. "I'm very pleased with my round, and actually let a few chances go by."

Toms leads field

DULUTH, Georgia—Shingo Katayama's charmed golf luck, David Toms' talent and Phil Mickelson's fickle fortunes reached dramatic levels on a day of spectacular shotmaking at the 83rd PGA Championship.

The astonishing became so commonplace here Saturday in the third round of the year's last major event that Tiger Woods' one-bounce eagle at the ninth hole and Nick Faldo's first ace at a major paled in comparison.

Toms aced the 243-yard 15th hole on "the coolest shot I ever hit" and drained a long birdie putt at the 18th to fire a five-under par 65 and stand atop the leaderboard at 14-under par 196.

The jaw-dropping efforts brought roars of joy from thousands gathered around each hole at Atlanta Athletic Club, in addition to sparking the American's confidence for the final round.

Mickelson, by contrast, received more mixed blessings from the gods of golf, sinking eight birdies for his third 66 in a row but finishing two shots behind Toms, thanks to a double-bogey disaster at the par-4 third.

Adding to Mickelson's odd day were approaches on the 11th and 14th holes that landed inches from the cup for tap-in birdies. His 158-yard 8-iron effort at 14 hit the flagpole and cup edge but went out. *AFP*

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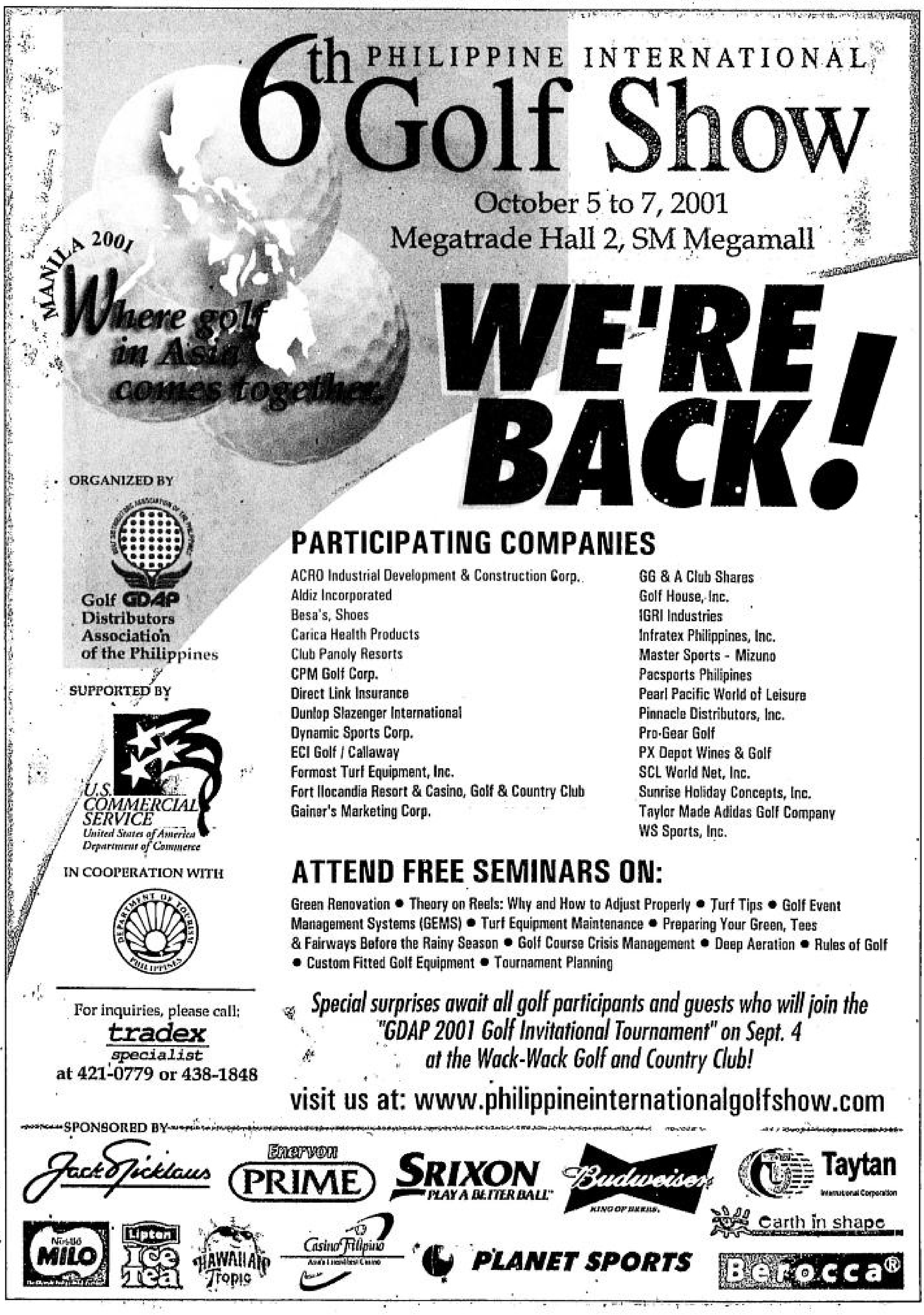
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AMERICAN LEAGUE

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	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	73	50	.594	—
Boston	67	54	.554	5
Toronto	58	65	.472	15
Baltimore	52	71	.423	21
Tampa Bay	43	81	.347	30 1-2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	69	53	.566	—
Minnesota	65	58	.529	4 1-2
Chicago	60	61	.496	8 1-2
Detroit	50	71	.413	18 1-2
Kansas City	50	73	.407	19 1-2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	88	35	.715	—
Oakland	71	52	.577	17
Anaheim	65	58	.529	23
Texas	53	70	.431	35

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	68	54	.557	—
Philadelphia	67	55	.549	1
Florida	59	63	.484	9
New York	55	68	.447	13 1-2
Montreal	52	71	.423	16 1-2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	70	53	.569	—
Chicago	68	53	.562	1
St. Louis	67	55	.549	2 1-2
Milwaukee	52	68	.433	16 1-2
Cincinnati	48	74	.393	21 1-2
Pittsburgh	45	77	.369	24 1-2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	71	51	.582	—
S. Francisco	69	54	.561	2 1-2
Los Angeles	67	56	.545	4 1-2
San Diego	61	61	.500	10
Colorado	52	70	.426	19

Complete Results

American League

Cleveland 4, Anaheim 2;
Oakland 6, Chicago White Sox 4;
Texas 12, Toronto 5;
Seattle 7, N.Y. Yankees 6;
Boston 5, Baltimore 1;
Kansas City 8, Detroit 4;
Minnesota 6, Tampa Bay 4.

National League

Houston 3, Pittsburgh 0,
Atlanta 3, San Francisco 1;
Milwaukee 6, Cincinnati 5;
Colorado 8, Florida 3;
St. Louis 6, Philadelphia 3;
San Diego 4, Montreal 3;
Arizona 5, Chicago Cubs 3;
N.Y. Mets 5, Los Angeles 4. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: PGA Championship, Final Round at 7 a.m. (r) on Skycable 29 and Home Cable 29

Golfglobe 2001 at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Senior PGA Bellsouth Senior Classic, Final Round at 2 p.m. and 10 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

TENNIS: ATP Tennis Show at 3:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

TENNIS ROUNDUP

Schalken upsets Agassi

WASHINGTON—Sjeng Schalken broke serve to end the second and third sets, and upset top-seeded Andre Agassi to advance to the finals of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic. The No. 10 seed overcame a slow start Saturday night to beat Agassi for the first time in six career meetings. Schalken hit 34 winners and forced 32 errors from the tournament's five-time champion in a 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory. On Sunday, Schalken will play ninth-seeded Andy Roddick, who beat Michael Chang 6-4, 6-3 earlier Saturday to advance to his third final of the year. Agassi took a 5-1 lead in the first set.

It's Capriati vs Williams

TORONTO—Jennifer Capriati outlasted Anke Huber 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to reach the final of the Rogers AT&T Cup. The top-seeded Capriati, who won the Canadian WTA event a decade ago at the age of 15, will face Serena Williams—a 7-5, 7-6 (5) semifinal winner over Monica Seles—in Sunday's final. "Today I was pleased with the way I was hitting them," said Capriati, who assured herself of being seeded second at the US Open by reaching the semifinals here. "Today I was really making them and going for it. I wish every day I could play like that." In the first and third sets Saturday, Capriati broke Huber to go up 5-3 and serve for the set each time. *AP*

Rafter reaches 4th final

INDIANAPOLIS—Pat Rafter outlasted Marat Safin in a two-hour semifinal Saturday at the RCA Championships, finally winning when the Russian hit an easy overhead forehand into the net. Rafter's 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7) victory over the reigning US Open champion sends the Australian to his fourth tournament final this summer. He lost the other three. The semifinal between defending RCA champion Gustavo Kuerten, the winner of the last two French Opens, and Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic was postponed after a three-hour rain delay. *AP*

Sales shines

BACOLOD CITY—Fidé Master Jesse Noel Sales emerged as instant millionaire by winning the P2.2-million Glutaphos-Philippine Chess Grand Prix which ended at the Bilabo Room of Sugarland Hotel in Bacolod City.

Sales, of Calamba City, defeated NM Alexander Lupian of Sto. Tomas, Davao, in 31 moves of Nimzovites defense in Game 4 of their championship series in this event sponsored by Pascual Laboratories Inc., a joint project by the City Government of Bacolod, Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine Chess Federation.

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Schumacher nears title

BUDAPEST, Hungary—Michael Schumacher is 77 laps away from his second straight and fourth overall Formula One championship and the way the German ace has been driving, taking the Hungarian Grand Prix and the title will be a formality. If Schumacher can keep up the pace and if his Ferrari holds up in the sweltering heat of the Hungarian capital, he will be celebrating at the end of Sunday's race. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

COMMISSIONER'S CUP

San Miguel makes it 2-all

GAME WEDNESDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
7 p.m. – SMB vs Red Bull (Game 5)

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

SAN Miguel Beer rode on a 12-0 scoring binge in the fourth quarter to crush Batang Red Bull, 88-72, last night and level the PBA Commissioner's Cup championship series at 2-2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

For the first time in the series, the Beermen turned in the kind of game commensurate to their stature as the most dominant team in the league put the Thunder at bay for most of the game before whipping that fiery endgame that enabled them to recover from 0-2 deficit in the best-of-seven affair.

Danny Seigle topscored with 26 points but it was Danny Ildefonso's all-around brilliance that carried the Beermen. Ildefonso scored 12 points, hauled 11 rebounds and issued 10 assists.

Boybits Victoria sparked the run with a three-pointer with eight minutes left in the game, giving SMB a 65-62 lead despite the foul trouble on Nate Johnson, who got his fifth with 7:51 left.

The victory enabled the Beermen to gain the momentum going into Wednesday's Game 5 also at the Big Dome.

"It was a badly needed win," said SMB coach Jong Uichico. "In the last game, I said the pressure is on them but now we even have the momentum on our side."

San Miguel is not only eyeing a fourth straight conference championship and an inside track to a second grandslam. It is also trying to become only the second team in the league to hurdle a 0-2 deficit to win the title.

Of course, the Thunder got another blackeye as early as in the first quarter when Junthy Valenzuela was thrown out for elbowing Nate Johnson.

"I think it showed in the way they (Red Bull) shot tonight that they are now feeling the pressure," said Uichico.

Meanwhile, Ildefonso copped the Commissioner's Cup best player award to become the first PBA player in history to win the plum for four straight conferences.

Ildefonso bested four other players including Seigle, who placed third, behind Batang Red Bull's Devonn Harp.

Red Bull import Antonio Lang shared the conference honors by winning the Best Import award, beating Johnson.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 88—Seigle 26, Johnson 18, Ildefonso 12, Belasco 12, Racela 10, Peña 7, Victoria 3, Abuda 0, Lago 0.

RED BULL 72—Lang 24, Torion 17, Harp 12, Pennisi 11, Tugade 6, Mendoza 2, Reyes 0, Miller 0, Valenzuela 0, Agustin 0, Briones 0.

Quarters: 15-20, 38-30, 62-56, 88-72

ILDEFONSO: Best player.
ERNIESARMIENTO

Pumaren blasts UAAP head

BY DENNIS EROA

FRANZ Pumaren, who guided La Salle to three straight UAAP titles, yesterday lambasted UAAP president Anton Montinola of host FEU for his role in the riotous La Salle-FEU match last Saturday at the Loyola Gym.

"I think Mr. Montinola was out of control. That's conduct unbecoming of a UAAP president because his behavior agitated the crowd," Pumaren told the INQUIRER. Pumaren explained that he and La Salle team manager Terry Capistrano were trying to pacify Montinola after the game. Also shown confronting the referees was FEU consultant Danny Gavierres.

Pumaren said FEU fans started to throw debris, while the Green Archers were singing the school hymn. Hit during the throwing incident were Franz's father Filomeno. Also hurt was the mother of FEU defender James Zablan and referee Raffy Britannico (not Garchie Ferrer as earlier reported), who made the crucial call against the Tamaraws.

"I believe that Mr. Montinola must take the lead in sanctioning FEU players involved in this unfortunate event," Pumaren stressed.

In a telephone interview, Montinola denied agitating the crowd. "I never confronted the referees. I even prevented them from being harmed."

He added the UAAP board will meet on Wednesday to discuss possible sanctions against those responsible for the fracas.

Tournament director Chot Reyes agreed that Montinola did not confront but rather protect the referees. He said that Britannico will be sanctioned not because he made the call which altered the result of the ballgame, but for inadvertenly assessing the wrong person.

Over at the Loyola Gym, up and coming Rene de Guzman and Alwyn Espiritu starred as University of Santo Tomas clipped Adamson, 69-55 for its third win against five losses. The Falcons dropped to 0-8.

Taipei downs RP 5

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan—The Philippines bowed to Chinese Taipei, 79-84, in the 24th William Jones Cup at the Feng Sheng Stadium here Saturday night. After a mighty 82-72 upset of the Canadians on opening day, the Filipinos failed to score what could have been a smashing follow-up.

NCAA today (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12nn—PCU vs UPHR (jrs/srs)
3:30 p.m.—Letran vs Mapua (jrs/srs)

Grand Prix set Aug. 26

THE PETRON Grand Prix resumes with the 11th and 12th rounds on Aug. 26 with Ferdinand Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery and Monching Gutierrez of Gulf Oil-MP turbo hoping to wrap up the overall championships in their respective categories at the Subic International Raceway.

Stung by heartbreaking losses due to minor accidents in the previous two rounds on July 8, Ong tries to recover lost ground against his closest rivals and finally clinch the overall title in the centerpiece Blaze super saloon category.

Ong has a 10-leg aggregate of 60 points based on the 10-6-4-3-2 scoring system used by the organizing Sports Values Inc. (SVI).

His closest rivals are Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA and Nilo Pazcoguin of Caltex-Team Tom's, who remained in strong contention with 45 and 41 points, respectively.

The 14-part series, sponsored by Petron Corp., will end on Sept. 2. For inquiries, call SVI at tel. 671-6926.

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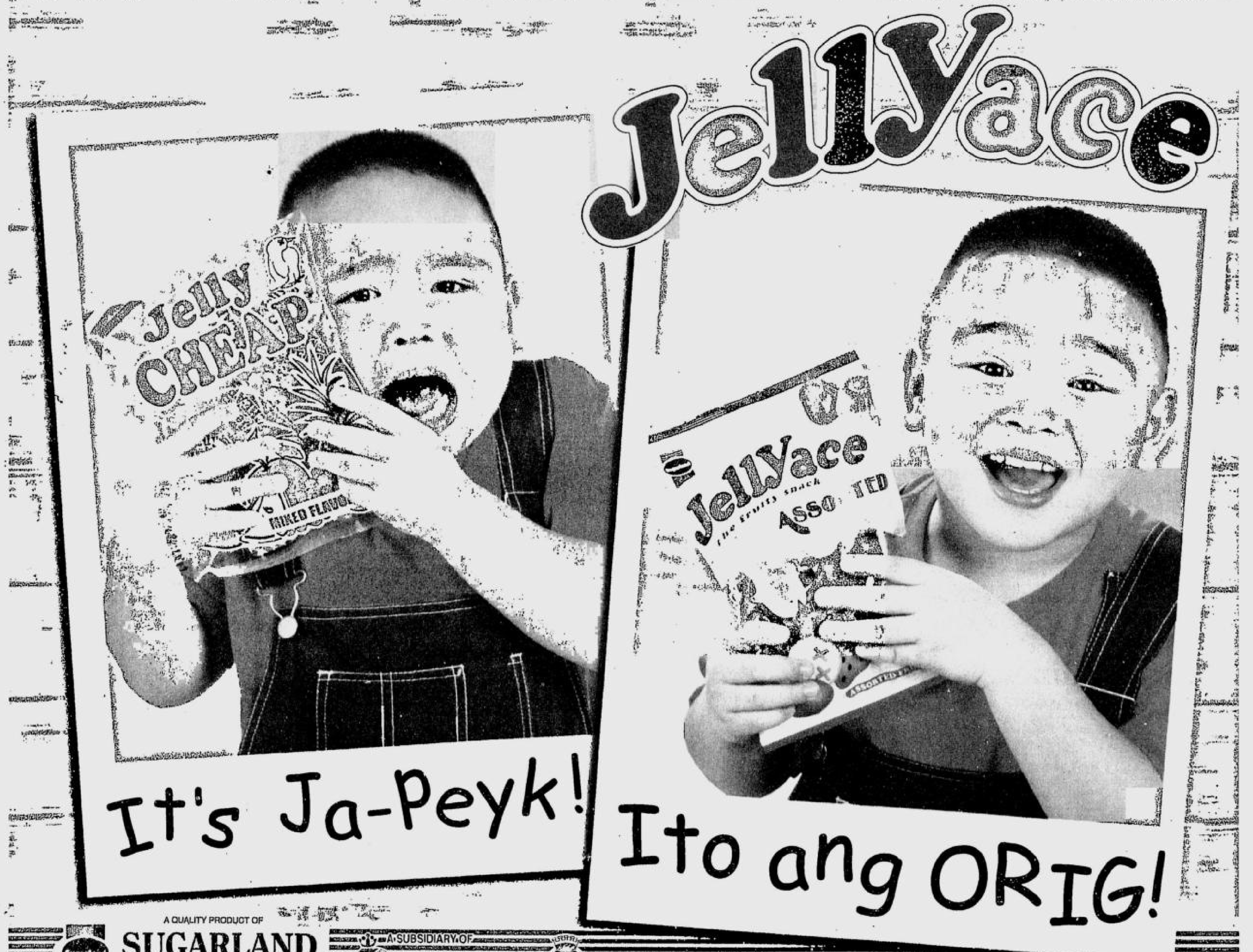

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SOON TO OPEN: COMMONWEALTH

Firefighters warn of huge explosion in oil depot

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

ANOTHER tragic fire is waiting to happen in Metro Manila, and it could be more disastrous than the Quezon City Manor Hotel inferno which claimed 71 lives on Saturday, the Manila-based United Firefighters Association of the Philippines warned yesterday.

A lighted cigarette carelessly thrown in the vicinity of the oil depot in the densely populated Pandacan district in Manila could trigger an explosion and torch to death thousands of residents, according to Alvin Estrada, spokesperson of the association.

The fire would immediately spread within a three-mile radius from the depot, Estrada said.

Chemicals from the depot would also leak into the Pasig River and burn everything in its path, he said.

But more frightening than the possibility of the fire is the reality that firefighters in Metro Manila are not equipped to respond to it, he said.

"Accidents will happen no matter how careful we are," Estrada told the INQUIRER. "The Pandacan depot is an accident waiting to happen. The repercussions are beyond imagination."

He said the depot contains at least three volatile chemical substances that could easily explode. These are aviation fuel, high-octane gasoline, and liquefied petroleum gas.

The depot also processes diesel, kerosene, oil lubricants, grease, petroleum distillates, bunker fuel, and additives, Estrada said.

He and his group criticized the government's failure to respond to their request for the transfer of the Pandacan depot to a much safer place, particularly in Limay, Bataan.

He said the group had informed the Department of Interior and Local Government about the problem early this year, but authorities have yet to look into the matter.

"I don't know if we are just a sado-masochistic people who love to hurt and get hurt," Estrada

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8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	RADYO
10	VENUS

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	VENUS
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

SM CEBU
2313876

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	CATS & DOGS
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	MOULIN ROUGE
6	RED DIARIES
7	PLANET OF THE APES

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
2	CLOSED
3	KISS OF THE DRAGON
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	RED DIARIES
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	CLOSED
8	MOULIN ROUGE

SM PAMPANGA
7128015

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	CATS & DOGS
3	TURN ON
4	RADYO
5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	COOL DUDES

SM SUCAT
8294015

1	THE ANIMAL
2	COOL DUDES
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	RADYO

SM DAVAO

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2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	SCREAM, I KNOW WHAT YOU DID...

GLORIETTA 4

1	PLANET OF THE APES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	PLANET OF THE APES THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	A PIECE OF EDEN (Phil. Premiere) Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	KISS OF THE DRAGON in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	CATS & DOGS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	THE ANIMAL in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	MOULIN ROUGE in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
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3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
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3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SCREAM, I KNOW WHAT YOU DID... in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	THE ANIMAL in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
3 (DTS)	MOULIN ROUGE
4 GOLD (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
8 [illegible]	COOL DUDE'S
9 [illegible]	RADYO
10 [illegible]	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	VENUS
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
2 (DTS)	VENUS
3	COOL DUDES

Masagana CINEMA 1-2-3-4
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	COOL DUDES
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	VENUS

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	COOL DUDES
2	THE ANIMAL
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	VENUS

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	COOL DUDES
4	RED DIARIES
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	RADYO
8	VENUS

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	PLANET OF THE APES

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	MAHAL KITA

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9535

1	
2	
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	VENUS
A	PLANET OF THE APES

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	VENUS
3	RESERVE
4	COOL DUDES

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
2	RADYO
3	RESERVE
4	VENUS
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6	COOL DUDES
7 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
8 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
9 (DOLBY)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	VENUS

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	COOL DUDES
2	RED DIARIES
3	VENUS
4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	KISS OF THE DRAGON
6 (DOLBY)	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
7 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
8	RADYO
9	THE ANIMAL

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
2	COOL DUDES
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4	VENUS
5 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
6	RADYO
7 (DOLBY)	THE ANIMAL
8	RED DIARIES

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	VENUS
2	COOL DUDES
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	RED DIARIES
5 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	COOL DUDES

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	COOL DUDES

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

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Jennet	

THE MARKETPLACE
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1	COOL DUDES
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RESERVE
4	VENUS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.3215

3	COOL DUDES

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
3	RED DIARIES
4	COOL DUDES
5	VENUS

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	COOL DUDES
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	VENUS

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	COOL DUDES
2	VENUS
3	PLANET OF THE APES

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	VENUS
2	PLANET OF THE APES

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	VENUS
3	COOL DUDES
4	PLANET OF THE APES

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
2	COOL DUDES
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	COOL DUDES
2 (DTS)	RADYO
3 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	THE ANIMAL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	COOL DUDES
2 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	RADYO

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	RADYO
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	COOL DUDES
2	VENUS
3	NAKE LIES
4 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
2	RADYO
3 (DTS)	COOL DUDES
4	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
5	THE ANIMAL

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	COOL DUDES
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	COOL DUDES
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	RADYO
2	THE ANIMAL
3	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	SPOT
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	DUDURUGIN KO . . .

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	COOL DUDES
2 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	COOL DUDES

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
2	COOL DUDES
3	KISS OF THE DRAGON

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	RED DIARIES
4	RADYO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TOM CAT
2	RADYO
3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
4 (DTS ES)	PLANET OF THE APES

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5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
8	THE ANIMAL
9	COOL DUDES
10	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

ERMITA
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1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
3	STICKMEN
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	COOL DUDES
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	THE ANIMAL

NOVALICHES
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1	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6	COOL DUDES
7	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
8	VENUS

IMUS
(046) 471-8168

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	COOL DUDES
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
5	VENUS
6	THE ANIMAL

BACOLOD
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3	RED DIARIES
4	CATS & DOGS
5	DRIVEN
6	COMMAND & CONQUER

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ANIMAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	STICKMEN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BALAHIBONG PUSA/ BODY TO BODY
ODEON	PLANET OF THE APES
ODEON-2	TURN ON
ROBEN	VENUS DIOSA NG KARAGATAN
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	COOL DUDES
QUEZON-1	VENUS DIOSA NG KARAGATAN
REMAR	PLANET OF THE APES
REMAR-2	VENUS DIOSA NG KARAGATAN
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-2	BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	RADYO
CINEMA-2	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-7	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-8	VENUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-12	SCREAM LAST FRIDAY THE 13TH
CINEMA-14	STICKMEN
CINEMA-15	COOL DUDES
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-2	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-3	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-4	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
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Artistation takes pride in years of experience and expertise in handling first-rate artists and seasoned bands, including Side A and Pido With Take One, plus beauty queen-turned TV host Miriam Quiambao.

Singing workshop

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines, the country's first training school in pop singing, recently launched an affordable singing course called "Live Singing Performance Workshop."

The workshop is inspired by the Musicians' Institute in Hollywood, California. Among its world-renowned students include Paul McCartney, Sting, Michael Jackson, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Stevie Wonder, Aerosmith and Alanis Morisette.

Butch Albarracin is the founder and president of the Center for Pop Music Philippines.

The workshop training course consists of 12 sessions/ 1 hour per session, regular lessons, plus the chance to do a practicum and recital. Cost: P4,200.

An interested student may opt for the "Starborne" which features recording and "Sing and Move" lessons, 18 sessions/2 hours per session, with a chance to do a recital. Cost: P6,290.

Among the products of the Center for Pop Music Philippines include Geneva Cruz, Dessa, Roselle Nava, Ima Castro and Color It Red's Cookie Chua.

Details can be obtained from the Center for Pop Music Philippines (head office) at 73 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, QC. Call 721-0714 or 727-5293 or 411-7310.

The workshop is also offered in CPMP's branches in Makati City (891-6124), Parañaque City (820-4326), Las Piñas (874-5324), Cebu City (032-234-1120), Marikina City (998-0909), Lagro (930-9803) and Roces Ave., QC (372-1729).

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5:45 PM - Planet of the Apes
8:15 PM - Planet of the Apes
10:45 PM - Planet of the Apes

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Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

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BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(WILD & BLIND: As though it were the original underdog, San Miguel played hungry and hard, mainly on defense, to win on Friday. Despite the tight finish, though, the Beermen had no need for an extra push from the referees. The PBA Commissioner's Cup championship series is shaping up to be a classic, but league organizers should watch out lest the referees spoil it with blind calls mainly at crunchtime.....There was no referee in last Friday's Senate hearing on the assorted charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson. The result: Several deliberate fouls were committed. The main accuser also ended up being grilled raw..... Did Ador Mawanay deserve to be detained after he failed to substantiate his allegations? We heard that, given the chance, Mawanay would have gone a wee bit wilder and claimed he was, in fact, a son of Susie Wong (played by a young, lovely Nancy Kwan in the movie the "World of Susie Wong"), the reason he was able to link up with alleged drug lord Kim Wong. Smiling, someone added that Ador could have also said he was a grandson of the great Mao Tse Tung, which gave him the license to make all those stunning allegations. What's truly intriguing is this info, not from a Martian, that Mawanay was deftly planted there by a cunning plotter who would ultimately profit from all the expected mess the wild, wild witness would create. Look what's happened. So far, Mawanay has succeeded in making those who bit and bought his cheap goodies appear sick and silly.)

* * *

LAST seen on local television, national boxing idol Manny Pacquiao was refereeing a cute non-fight between two shapely dames who clashed wielding soft, outsized gloves. Before that, Pacquiao was at the PBA main arena to be received by delighted fans, including the venerable Leo Prieto, father of the pro league.

Then the boxing hero suddenly flew to the United States to train, although his opponent and fight date were still undetermined.

The latest on Pacquiao? It's not about his unscheduled return last week from California where he was supposed to have linked up with Fred Roach, the American trainer who reshaped him into a sharper and more intelligent boxer.

That sudden flight back home raised speculations that everything was not A-OK with Manny and his handlers. But it was later bared that Manny returned to help his wife secure an American visa.

Anyway, the big news about Pacquiao, courtesy of today's Nick Giongco, is the first defense of his IBF super bantamweight title.

Giongco, who also broke the news last week about the lamented exit of Dominador Cepeda as main man in the Games and Amusements Board, reported that Pacquiao is scheduled to defend his title in London, and not in the US as earlier planned.

* * *

There was actually a fallback plan to have Pacquiao defend his title here in Manila if negotiations for a US fight bogged down. But Pacquiao's handlers were reportedly offered a big, fat purse which they did not have the heart to refuse.

So it will be World Boxing Organization super bantamweight king Agapito Sanchez for Pacquiao in London on November 11.

Sanchez, 30, described as a sweet puncher, holds a 25-7 win-loss card.

Pacquiao, 23, is 32-2 with 26 knockouts.

Wrote Giongco: "Although the record of Sanchez, from the Dominican Republic, does not look imposing, it should be noted that he has squared off with the cream of the crop from the 122-pound division, including Gutty Espadas and Cesar 'Cobrita' Soto."

Pacquiao and Sanchez, Giongco added, knew each other as they both fought—and won—in the undercard of an Oscar de la Joya headliner in Las Vegas on June 23.

* * *

Yes, contracts have yet to be inked. But they are already asking how much Pacquiao will be paid.

Another paper said the Pinoy ring sensation stands to earn $130,000 (P6.5 million) but this was still unconfirmed.

Pacquiao received $40,000 in his last fight that saw him dethrone the favored Lehlo Ledwabah via a sixth-round stoppage.

Feeds from London said the popular Prince Naseem Hamed will be the stellar attraction in the London card, and this should again provide Pacquiao maximum international exposure.

Hamed is expected to be the toast of the town in London, but Pacquiao, given the chance, could steal the scene the way he had done in Las Vegas in June.

* * *

Actually, there was no significant fight to rouse the Filipino boxing crowd in July and this month.

But come September, fight fans are again expected to relish big-time ring action.

Felix Trinidad's much-awaited clash with the sensational Bernard Hopkins is scheduled for Sept. 16.

RPN-9 has cornered satellite rights to the big card.

Then the week after, it will be our very own Gerry Peñalosa fighting a Japanese in Yokohama in a bid to regain his WBC super flyweight crown.

Peñalosa says this could be his last chance to be a world champ again.

He does not say it, but unlike in Seoul where he had the bad luck of being robbed of victory, Gerry says he does not fear being cheated in Japan.

Just the same, Peñalosa swears he has to score a clear, convincing victory. A knockout, if possible.

Nobody, in these terrible times, needs a big win more than the poor, pained Pinoy.

Another fire hits QC; 1 dead

By Philip C. Tubeza

A DAY after a fire razed the Quezon City Manor Hotel on Saturday, another fire yesterday raged in a squatter's colony in Quezon City and left an epileptic girl dead, a woman and her two sons injured and about 200 squatter families homeless.

Killed was Lizelle Zarte, 15, said to be an epileptic, said Inspector Samuel Tadeo.

Annalyn Peron, 35, and her sons Christian, 4, and Nicko, 3, residents of the urban poor area at the corner of ROTC Hunters and Kaliraya streets in Barangay Tatalon, suffered first-degree burns in the fire, said Sgt. Jose Rodrigo of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

The three were brought to the East Avenue Medical Center for treatment, Rodrigo said.

Initial reports said that Jolly Millante, 2, went missing during the fire.

Police said the blaze started at 2:25 p.m. at the house of Virginia Pelesantes and spread quickly. The squatter shanties were made of highly flammable materials, they said.

About 50 shanties were destroyed in the fire, which was placed under control only at 3:40 p.m. and was completely put out at 4:12 p.m. yesterday, police said.

Arson investigators are still trying to determine the cause of fire.

Gordon cites Red Cross, rescue teams

TOURISM Secretary Richard J. Gordon yesterday commended the Quezon City chapter of the Philippine National Red Cross and the Quezon City Rescue Unit for their prompt response to the Quezon City Manor Hotel fire, as he expressed his condolences to the families of the victims.

Volunteer firefighters and first aid teams were working to extinguish the fire and rescue survivors by 4:30 a.m. Saturday, about half an hour after the fire was first reported.

"We commend the Red Cross and the rescue teams for their speedy action, without which the loss of lives and damage to property could have been much worse," Gordon said.

Gordon was at the fire scene on Kamuning Road Saturday morning.

"We extend our condolences to the families of the victims and express our deepest regret over this terrible incident," he said.

In an interview on radio station dzMM, Gordon said that although the tourism department was directly affected by the degree to which fire safety standards in hotels are observed, the power to implement the law and penalize erring establishments lies with the local government.

"Hotels no longer need certifications from the Department of Tourism to be accredited," he said.

Gordon, who cancelled a trip to the Kadayawan festival in Davao to look into the tragedy, said he would ask Malacañang for a memorandum requiring the tourism department to study safety measures in hotels and lodging houses, jointly with concerned agencies such as local governments and the local offices of the Bureau of Fire Protection.

"The Department of Tourism will also work with the Philippine National Red Cross to produce a memorandum to train Red Cross volunteers on safety procedures and first aid in the event of hotel fires," he said.

Gordon said that when he was chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, budget and five-star hotels in the Subic area were required to mark fire exits clearly and to inform guests of fire evacuation routes.

Firefighters . . .

(From page A23)

said. "The Pandacan depot is right there, waiting to explode, yet we're not doing anything about it."

To prove that the government is apathetic to the danger, Estrada pointed out that vendors are allowed to sell barbecue right outside the depot.

In other countries, any type of smoke is not allowed within 500 meters of oil depots, he said.

The noxious gas leak which allegedly came from the depot last month served as a "sneak preview" of how dangerous the Pandacan oil station is, Estrada said.

He said several students of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines were reportedly hospitalized after inhaling harmful gas which allegedly leaked from the nearby Pandacan depot.

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VACC officer is sleuth, shrink, secretary and lawyer

BY JEROME ANING

AMELITA Nicodemus, 43, is a detective, lawyer, shrink and secretary rolled into one. Her salary is small but her bigger reward comes from the sincere words of gratitude of the victims of crime whom she has helped, and from a folder where she keeps a list of court cases she successfully helped bring to a fair conclusion.

"Tita" Lita or "Aling" Lita, as she is popularly known among her friends, is head of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption anti-heinous crime desk, one of the group's busiest departments, which handles crimes punishable by death or life imprisonment.

Nicodemus' office is a simple cubicle with a desk, a chair, a filing cabinet and a phone that rang at least eight times during an hour-long interview with the INQUIRER.

Nicodemus once dreamt of becoming a police officer like her father, Moises Santos. She studied social work but ended up as a quality control inspector of Intel Philippines, an electronic and software company. But her father's job as a homicide investigator of the Western Police District and her environment exposed her to crime and violence.

The sixth of eight siblings, Nicodemus grew up on Anakbayan Street in San Andres Bukid, a depressed and densely populated area that became a virtual war zone during clashes among the rival Oxo, Sputnik and Bahala Na gangs.

She remembers that whenever a riot broke out in their neighborhood, she and her siblings would be trembling with fear as they tried hard to lay still on the floor surrounded by sacks of rice.

"With bullets flying everywhere, even my father, a policeman, could hardly deal with the situation," she said.

She recalls that there was hardly a gang war where nobody got shot, stabbed or beaten to death.

Through all this, Nicodemus learned, too, the importance of courage and perseverance in dealing with life.

Retired

"In the pursuit of justice, one needs a lot of courage and perseverance, plus prayers and support from others, since it's hard to fight alone," she said. "I always tell this to victims of crime whenever they approach my desk for help."

In the mid-80s, she was involved with Kakampi, or the Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anakan ng Migranteng Pilipino.

In 1988 after 13 years of service, Nicodemus retired from Intel and focused on community-based movements and civil society groups.

But her involvement with various NGOs came to an abrupt halt when, in February 1995, her nephew William Sto. Domingo was caught in a brawl and shot.

William, 22, took a bullet in the chest and was hospitalized for months. One of his lungs was punctured and he lost so much blood that it affected his brain function. Today, William is a vegetable and an example of youth wasted by crime.

To Nicodemus, he has become the symbol of her anti-crime crusade.

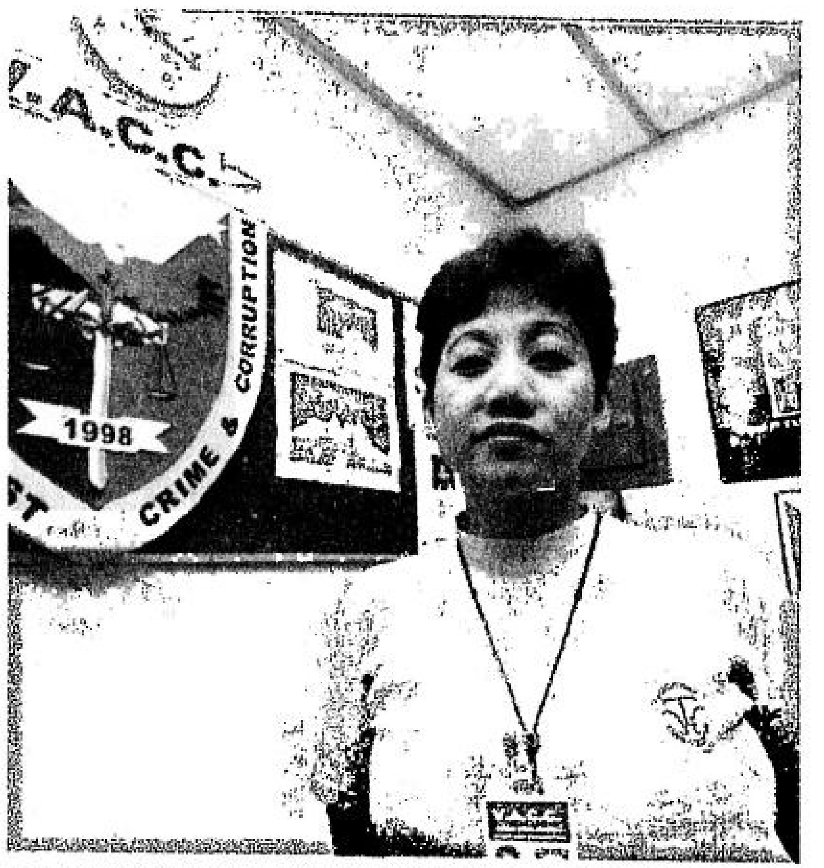
Trust the fiscal

While tending to William at the Philippine General Hospital, Nicodemus met then Crusade Against Violence leaders Alice Vinculado and Dante Jimenez. The two were visiting an ambush victim, who figured in the much-publicized murder case involving the Yap brothers of Zamboanga.

Nicodemus sought the CAV's help in pursuing the case against her nephew's assailants and soon found herself a CAV volunteer.

With the anti-crime group's help in monitoring the case and the aid of Nicodemus' own friends, a court later convicted three of the six suspects in William's case and sentenced them to long prison terms for frustrated homicide and gun possession.

Drawing from her experience, Nicodemus said she would always tell crime victims to "trust the fiscal handling their case." She tells them to be "frank with the fiscal and tell him from the start that they are poor and have no money and that the case is in his hands so please don't be corrupted and sell our case."



A WOMAN of many parts, "Tita" Lita makes sure crime victims do not fight a lonely battle.

Nicodemus' stint with the CAV ended when she joined the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, formed in 1998 by discontented CAV members who figured in an internal feud with their leaders.

Updating victims

Jimenez, the VACC chair and president, appointed Nicodemus to the anti-heinous crime desk. She assisted Jimenez in his duties as member of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission and its successor, the Presidential Commission Against Organized Crime. She also accompanies him in his visits to crime victims in faraway provinces, and even appears as a guest in his radio programs.

One or twice a week, Nicodemus stays at the VACC office at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center in Ermita. But more often, she is in the field, following up cases in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, the Department of Justice, lower courts and prosecutor's offices.

She also takes time to update crime victims on their cases and help them "plot the next move."

Two Thursdays ago, Nicodemus attended a hearing of the administrative case she filed against a judge and a clerk of court for arraigning a murder suspect without informing the complainant, who has sought the VACC's help.

Worse, the accused was arraigned for a lesser offence and the complainant was not given time to appeal to the DOJ for the restoration of the original charge.

Victim profile

Nicodemus described the crime victims she "entertains" as usually insecure, weak-willed and shrouded by defeatism. She often has to transform her cheerful and chatty self into a sympathetic listener.

"Inwardly, I feel happy when I sense that after talking with them, commiserating and giving them counsel, they leave the office with a lighter heart," she said.

There are also times when it is the family of the accused who seeks the help of the VACC.

"It is rather sad that the accused is unlucky if he has no money, not educated and have no political connections," Nicodemus said. "I've met many of them languishing behind bars for crimes they did not commit."

Nicodemus said she often receives anonymous phone calls tipping her about clues and testimony that could or could not be vital to cases VACC is handling. Like a detective, she analyzes the tips and reports them to police, or follows them up herself.

She said that if her family were to choose, they would rather have her working somewhere else.

"They are afraid of my work, they want me to leave VACC," she admitted. "So, I deliberately don't tell them the details of my most dangerous 'missions.'"

Once, she recalled, she arrived home dirty and her clothes were rumpled. Her family never even guessed that she accompanied policemen somewhere in Pangasinan to look for an elusive murder suspect.

But Nicodemus admits that she still has to find the courage to follow up cases in Cavite where, she said, most cases are ultimately mired in politics.

Death threats

Dealing with victims and suspects also made Nicodemus a frequent recipient of death threats.

"Frankly, I'm prepared for anything that happens to me," she said. "But I'd rather be riddled with bullets in broad daylight than be abducted, buried in concrete inside a drum, dumped and never seen again."

Busy as she is, Nicodemus still finds time to unwind.

She said she used to jog from her house on La Concordia Street in Paco to Roxas Boulevard. But she said she stopped a year ago after she noticed that the father of one suspect in the slaying of a scion of the Lopez business clan was also jogging behind her.

She could also be found after a busy day in a restaurant near the VACC office—hooked to the videoke and having fun with her friends.

But the best time to unwind is to be with her family, Nicodemus said.

She no longer lives with her husband Cesar, whom she said is now disabled because of drug addiction. Their eldest daughter Heidi, 22, is a graduating mechanical engineering student. Cesar Jr., 18, had also given her a grandson, Tristan, now a month old.

Black moth

Nicodemus said she has high hopes for the country's criminal justice system and believes that with substantial reforms, justice could be administered wisely and swiftly.

Unlike many of her peers, Nicodemus does not favor the death penalty. She prefers imprisonment with daily hard labor and no hope of parole.

"It's very easy to execute a person, but the suffering they caused lasts a lifetime," she said. "I think convicts should be made to rue their sins daily for the rest of their lives."

One time in May 1998, when she was in the PACC office studying the Rosielyn Federico rape-slay case, Nicodemus said she saw a huge black moth fluttering around the room.

"I talked to the moth and asked 'Who are you, who sent you?'" she recounted. "Then I grabbed my things and left the building as quickly as I could."

Later that night, Nicodemus said she dreamt of the rape victim.

At that time, the case was abruptly closed and the suspects acquitted, and the VACC was helping the victim's family to appeal for the reopening of the case at the Supreme Court.

"Rosielyn was standing and sobbing (in my dream)," she recounted. "The next day I went to Marikina City, visited Rosielyn's grave and looked for her mother. I promised her I'd do all I could for her daughter's case. One month later, the case was ordered reopened by the SC, which nullified the original decision of the judge."

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1 dead, 5 injured as bus rams into 3 other vehicles

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MAN was killed while five other people were injured, including an 8-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl, when a bus lost its brakes and rammed into three other vehicles in Manila yesterday morning.

Pangalian Sarimama, 55, of Quezon Boulevard, Sampaloc, Manila, died from severe head injuries at the Dr. Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center four hours after the accident, said SPO4 Jun Abiera of the Western Police District Traffic Division.

Sarimama's son Jahil, 8, is still fighting for his life in the same hospital with head and body injuries, Abiera said.

The other wounded, who suffered head and body injuries, were Elis Maureen Talon, 4, Olive Cantillero, 29, Benjamin Alver, 48, and SPO1 Pedro Montuya Jr. of the WPD Traffic Division. All are confined at the Jose Reyes, except for Montuya who was brought to the Ospital ng Maynila.

A wayward Pandacan Transport (NXS- 519) hit a private jeep (WWW-462) and two passenger jeepneys parked in front of Philtrust Bank in Sta. Cruz, Manila about 9 a.m., police said.

Most of the victims were on board the two jeepneys that were waiting for passengers in front of the bank. Montuya was driving the private jeep.

Bus driver Reynaldo Sierva, 33, said he lost his brakes so he was forced to ram the bus into the three other vehicles to avoid hitting people at Lacson Plaza.

He is facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and multiple physical injuries, and damage to properties, according to police.

Anti-ROTC cadets barricade TUP

By Agnes E. Donato

MILITANT students remain set on pushing for the abolition of the Reserved Officers Training Corps, even as Malacañang was reportedly drafting an alternative program for the mandatory military training course.

Yesterday, more than 500 students and cadets of the Technological University of the Philippines set up a barricade at their school in San Marcelino, Manila to call for the scrapping of the ROTC from the curriculum.

"We will not stop holding protest actions as long as the ROTC remains a required course for male students to obtain a college diploma," said Phil Tiozon, chair of the League of Filipino Students-National Capital Region.

Tiozon hit the Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Interior and Local Government for proposing to make the ROTC optional. He said this was not enough if the program would still be under the control of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Rey Asis of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) described as a "rehash of an old scheme" the plan which would allow male students to choose from among military training, law enforcement program and community service.

Asis claimed that the so-called "expanded ROTC" is already being implemented in some schools. He, however, added that there would be no assurance that the corrupt practices in the implementation of the program would be eradicated.

"Students will still have to pay extra fees to enroll and to meet the other requirements of the program," Asis complained.

He maintained that there were other ways to instill the value of volunteerism and social awareness among students without forcing them to undergo a required course such as the ROTC.

Tiozon said that aside from the protests, his group would also launch weekly socio-civic activities such as tree-planting, drainage clearing, literacy programs, medical missions and relief operations for communities affected by calamities.

LFS and CEGP would also join the representatives of party-list group Bayan Muna in going to Congress to attend their first plenary session since their election. Rep. Liza Masa is expected to file a bill calling for the abolition of the ROTC.

Pasig preacher accused of rape try

A PREACHER was accused of trying to rape a 17-year-old housemaid in Pasig City on Saturday afternoon.

The maid told police that Salvador "Boyet" Clemente, a pastor of a Christian sect, tried to rape her in his house in Barangay Santo Tomas, Pasig.

PO3 Ernesto Paraso said the maid was taking a nap with Clemente's little son when Clemente came home Saturday afternoon.

The girl said she was awakened when she felt she was being fondled and undressed. She said she managed to kick Clemente in the crotch and then she ran home.

She alleged that in November 2000, Clemente brought her to a Bible study class in Teresa, Rizal. When they were left alone, Clemente also touched her private parts, she said. *Agnes E. Donato*

100 YEARS OF DECISIONS

As part of its centenary celebrations, the Supreme Court on Aug. 15 launched the Supreme Court Centenary Reader, a compilation of selected SC decisions of the past 100 years. The Centenary Reader was presented to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who was introduced by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. (second from left). The launch was held at the Luna Hall of the National Museum during cocktails organized by the Centenary Celebrations Executive Committee and the Philippine Judiciary Foundation in cooperation with FIAT. The event was directed by Freddie Santos, hosted by singing lawyer Dot Ramos-Gancayco (center) and featured selections from the Reader read by newscaster Kata Inocencio (left) and Santos. At right is Justice Carolina Griño-Aquino.

X-ray machine 'steals' watch

By TJ Burgonio

YOU can lose your car in 60 seconds. But at the airport, you can lose your watch in less time.

A Japanese yesterday lost a watch worth P30,000 shortly after he placed it in a tray and walked through an X-ray machine at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Sato Hitoshi, who checked in at 7:40 a.m. for his flight to Japan, was asked by a non-uniformed security personnel to remove his Seiko watch and put it in a plastic tray before going through the X-ray machine.

But after walking through the machine and after being frisked by security personnel Gemil Regis, Hitoshi was surprised to find that his watch was gone, the Airport Police Department (APD) said.

As part of the airport's security procedures, passengers and airport personnel are asked to remove any metal object in their possession before walking through the X-ray machines.

Regis told police he saw no one get the watch of the Japanese.

When they reviewed the tape of the close-circuit TV, investigators Lt. Ric Badeo and Cpl. Fernando Panghulan of the airport police saw another security personnel, Julhanie Rama, pick up something from the tray and pocket it while Regis was frisking Hitoshi.

Rama, however, could not be found. She had already left for the day when Badeo and Panghulan went looking for her in their office.

The airport police, however, said they would summon Rama and Regis, who were suspected of conniving with the suspect, for further investigation.

Rama and Regis were also being investigated by the Aviation security Group, their mother unit, according to the APD.

Hitoshi took his flight.

Rotary launches 'leg project'

THE ROTARY Club of Makati Pasong Tamo recently launched its artificial leg project in collaboration with The Mahaveer Foundation, to provide artificial limbs to the physically impaired poor.

The club chair for this Project is Rotarian Beth de Villa.

The Rotary Club of Makati Pasong Tamó will accept applications for the artificial legs starting today at the office of the club secretariat at CCJS, 2nd Floor, The Plaza Royale, 120 L.P. Leviste (formerly Alfaro) Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. For further information, contact 812-52-46 to 48, fax 892 79-48 and e-mail address ccjs@epic.net.

Declamation competition in Makati

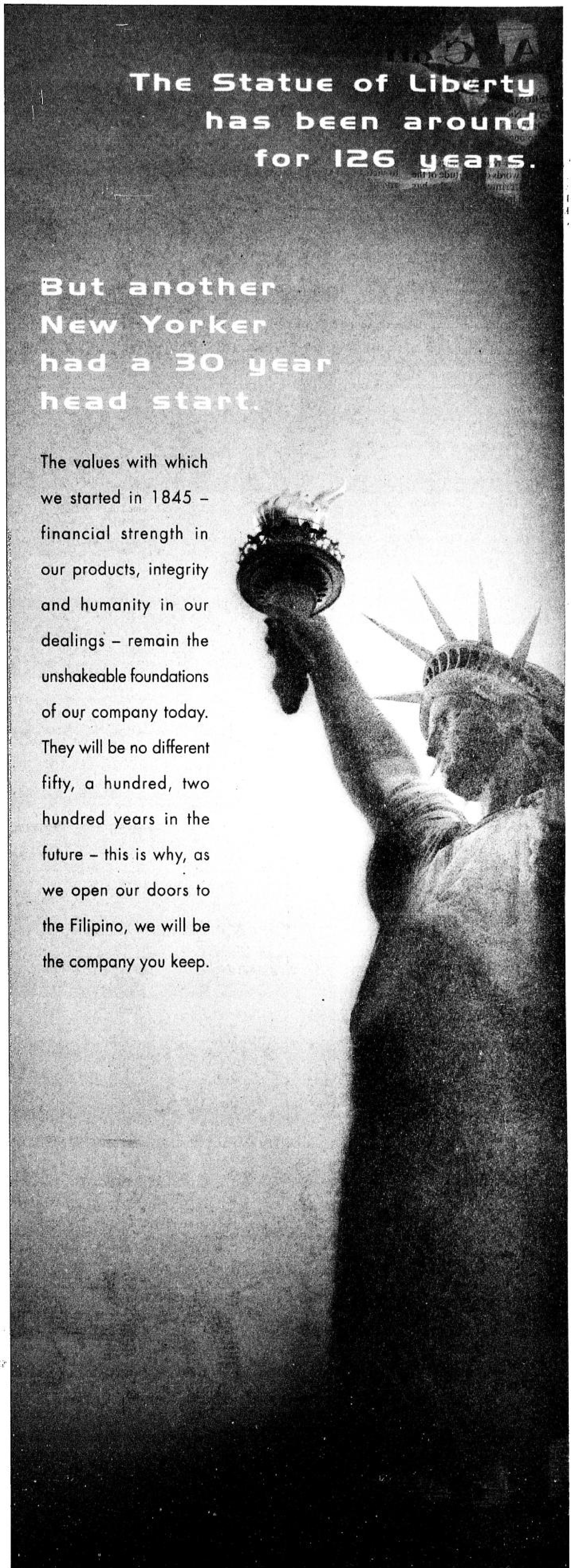
IN CELEBRATION of the National Language Month, Makati City, through the Museum and Cultural Affairs Office, will hold the 15th annual "Timpalak Bigkasan sa Makati" tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCIBank Tower I Building at the corner of Makati Avenue and H.V. de la Costa Street.

All public and private high schools in the city were asked to send representatives to the annual event, which is a search for Makati's best declaimer.

Participants must be high school students currently enrolled in Makati public or private schools.

This year's theme is "Wikang Filipino: Mahalagang Salik sa Pagpapahayag ng Karapatang Pantao." The contest piece must not exceed seven minutes.

The winners will receive cash prizes, trophies and bronze laurel crowns.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GMA 7 launches celebrity-talk-magazine show with an attitude

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

TO SEE is to believe.

GMA 7's daily morning talk show "Sis," which premieres at 10:30 a.m. today, promises to avoid the conventional and tiring format that characterizes every talk show on local TV.

The standard formula has guests being invited to talk about the latest controversy or misery in their lives. As they bare their secrets, they inevitably cry before the camera, to the perverse delight of viewers and TV producers who are always ratings-conscious.

This formula has been tried, tested and proven to bring some shows to the top of the ratings game.

But "Sis" guarantees the lighter, more interesting and entertaining side of people, places and events. GMA 7 classifies "Sis" as a celebrity-talk magazine show with an attitude.

As the title suggests, "Sis" is hosted by sisters **Janice** and **Gelli de Belen**. The show takes over the timeslot left vacant by **Dina Bonnevie's** "Ms D."

"Sis" is the first daily talk show on Philippine TV hosted by sisters. More than 20 years ago, the dancing Aldeguer sisters were regular performers on a primetime variety show. But no sisters have hosted a local TV show, until "Sis."

Furthermore, "Sis" won't be confined to a studio. Janice and Gelli will tackle relevant issues, trends and parenting and will give useful tips.

Janice brings her earnest, often passionate introspection, while Gelli balances it with her playful, astute self.

"Sis" will be up against ABS-CBN's "Talk TV," hosted by the erstwhile "Alas Singko Y Medya" tandem of **Julius Babao** and **Tintin Bersola**, with network newcomer **Ryan Agoncillo** and **Janet McBride**.

It was earlier rumored that ABS-CBN would move **Kris Aquino**'s "Kris and Tell" to its original 11 a.m. timeslot, perhaps to give "Sis" tough competition.

But according to ABS-CBN programming executive **Gia Garchitorena-Suyao**, Kris' program will stay in its afternoon time slot.

Like any pilot, "Sis" promises a lot to the public. We hope "Sis" will not disappoint morning viewers who need to be perked up and entertained.

Soap director wins award

CONGRATULATIONS to ABS-CBN primetime soap "Pangako sa 'Yo" for bagging the best direction trophy for **Rory Quintos** from the Asian TV Technical and Creative Awards.

The Asian TV Awards are presented every year to the best in programming and performances in the region.

TV Asia Magazine sponsors the awards which attract more than a thousand entries from 13 countries.

This is the first time that the Asian TV Awards gave awards in technical and creative categories.

In the historic first batch of awardees, Rory's trophy for "Pangako sa 'Yo" is the only one won by a Philippine TV program.

QUINTOS. Gets Asian TV best director award.

Rory was my colleague at the UP College of Mass Communication. I was not surprised at all to see her working in a TV network, when I saw her at ABS-CBN after college.

I saw Rory rose from the ranks, from freelance production assistant to talent coordinator, then production manager, associate producer and assistant director.

When she started working as one of the regular directors of the weekly drama series "Maalaala Mo Kaya," I asked myself, "Why am I not into TV production like her?"

Rory's work in the award-winning drama anthology prompted the network to give her film projects for Star Cinema.

I was proud of Rory when she occupied the director's chair. She has directed box office hits, including last year's critically acclaimed and commercially successful **Vilma Santos** starrer, "Anak."

PERALEJO. From bold to comedy.

I remember that when "Pangako sa 'Yo" was launched last year, Rory was worried about the viewers' reception to the big-budgeted series. But "Pangako sa 'Yo" turned out to be one of the network's most widely watched primetime shows.

And with her Asian TV best director award, Rory cannot be happier.

Comedy for a change

MOVIEGOERS saw nymphet **Rica Peralejo** take off her clothes in such sexy flicks as "Sa Huling Paghihintay" and "Balahibong Pusa."

"Sa Huling Paghihintay" signaled the start of Rica's bold route to stardom. Another significant thing that happened while shooting the movie is her romance with her leading man **Bernard Palanca**.

While people think Rica has given up other roles in favor of only sexy projects, she still welcomes variety. She does comedy in her latest screen caper, "Banyo Queen," where she plays the love interest of rapper-comedian **Andrew E.**, who was her costar in "Where the Girls Are."

"I was not really his partner in 'Where the Girls Are,'" Rica points out. "I was still starting then and Andrew was already a big star.

"It was fun working with him again. He treated me like he treats everyone else on the set. He's very humble and down to earth."

First-time film director **Dwight Gaston** injected a few sexy scenes for Rica in the comedy flick. Rica also gets to rap with Andrew in "My Banyo Queen," the carrier single of the movie soundtrack, all of which tunes Andrew composed.

After "Banyo Queen," Rica will team up with **Mark Anthony Fernandez** in an action-drama.

4 Pinoy movies in 5 foreign film festivals

(From page A30)

Independant in Brussels, Belgium, Nov. 6 to 11, 2001. Malengreau is programming director for international film festivals.

"Deathrow" is also enlisted as an official selection in the Cairo International Film Festival in October. In 1996, the same Cairo filmfest gave the Best Picture award to Lamangan's "The Flor Contemplacion Story" and the Best Actress award to its lead, Nora Aunor.

Malengreau also expressed interest in including "Deathrow" and "Markova" in the First Pattaya International Film Festival to be held July 19 to 28, 2002 in Thailand.

The DGPI participated in the recently concluded Asean-Korean Cultural Leadership Exchange Program in Seoul, Korea. The program, with the theme "Creating an Asian Future Through Cinema," reviewed the concerns of the cinema of the different nations and the development of the film industry in the region.

Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera, Dean Ellen Paglinanuan, and film director Emmanuel Borlaza composed the Philippine delegation to the Seoul program.

JEFFREY Quizon in Gil Portes' "Markova."

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A Piece of Eden is a bittersweet comedy that follows three generations of the unlucky Tredici family from Corsica in the 1940's to an Indiana fruit farm in the present. Young Bob, the first member of the family born in America, is heir to the family farm, but has no interest in farming and leaves to pursue a show business career in New York. When his father becomes ill, Bob returns and tries to revitalize the farm while cousin Greg tries to take it away from him. It is from the acclaimed director of *Prancer, Weeds* and *Bang the Drum Slowly*, which stars Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.
Featured in the 1999 Chicago International Film Festival, A Piece of Eden placed third, among hundreds of films, in the Audience Choice Awards.
"a moving, powerfully affecting drama in which you discover that you can go home again - but not without laughter and tears."
- Helen Whitney, Director/Writer/Producer
"I've watched it five times and could watch it five more. I loved it."
- Diana Laird, Author
A romantic comedy from the acclaimed director of *Prancer, Weeds* and *Bang the Drum Slowly*, with Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.

OPENS WEDNESDAY!
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She'll do anything if she thinks you're watching
NOMOTO MIHO
Between innocence and evil lies the seduction
Sex MEDUSA
THE SEDUCTRESS
CARRY NG VINCENT WAN XU JIN JIANG LEUNG TANG
Directed By:

OPENS AUGUST 22!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
BREAK THE RULES
When it's real. When it's right.
Don't let anything stand in your way.
KIRSTEN DUNST JAY HERNANDEZ
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MIKE MYERS as SHREK
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Everyone's PRINCESS. Crush of the whole town, but Kung-Fu expert ala Charlie's Angels. Will her heart melt with Shrek?
EDDIE MURPHY as DONKEY
The great SIDEKICK who's super naughty & haughty. But super LOYAL thru thick & thin.
KIDS, TEENS, MOMS and DADS! HERE COMES SHREK!
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OPENS AUGUST 22!

Sharon returns to the concert stage

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER almost four years away from the concert stage, **Sharon Cuneta** will perform in the special show, "One Night Only," at Onstage in Greenbelt Makati, at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 28.

With every CD purchase of Sharon's latest album, "Nothing I Want More" at Odyssey music stores, a free ticket to the show will be given away. Sharon's new album is collection of hit tunes from the '80s. The title track, by **Tillie Moreno** and **Jun Latonio**, is also the first single release.

A second single from the album, "It's Only Love" has also been released. The song was initially popularized by Spanish singing sensation **A.M.B. Junior**.

Other cuts in the album include a **Barry Manilow** medley, "He's Out of My Life," "Careless Whisper," "Lift Up Your Hands," "Please Don't Ask Me," "Smile Again," "The Promise," "Overjoyed," "Don't Forget Me" and "Maybe." The album is produced by Eugene Villaluz and arranged by **Homer Flores**.

New shows on AXN

NEW series on AXN, the action cable TV channel, include: "Now and Again" at 9 p.m. every Tuesday. The show, about a pudgy man who's fatally injured and re-engineered into a bionic secret agent, has won critical acclaim and awards.

"Crime Scene Investigation (CSI)" at 9 p.m. every Wednesday. **Jerry Bruckheimer**'s top-rating series was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best New Series and won the 2000 TV Guide Award for the same category.

"Seven Days" at 9 p.m. every Friday. About a CIA operative who travels back in time to prevent world catastrophes from happening. Nominated for an award at last year's Academy of Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy Films competition.

"Earth: Final Conflict 4" at 9 p.m. every Monday. In this final season of **Gene Roddenberry**'s series, tensions between the Taelons and humans are increasing—and the showdown between them promises to be nothing if not spectacular.

"The Immortal" at 9 p.m. every Thursday. As **Rafael Cain**, **Lorenzo Lamas** picks up a sword to fight dark forces bent on cloaking the world in despair.

Boob-tube booboos

THANKS to Dr. **Juan Custodio Jr.** for these two boners, hot off his TV screen:

Congressman: *Ihinain ko ang* bill *na ito para di makapagpakasal ang dalawang tao* of the same sex, even though one of them had a sex-change operation. Imagine this: you got married, and the next morning you suddenly discover that your partner is a member of the opposite ex?!

(*E, di ba hindi naman bawal ito?!*)

* * *

Newscaster: *At pagdating ni* M. *at ng kasama niya buhat sa* Hong Kong *at* America, *ay nakarating daw sila sa* Canadada!

(*Dada ka ng dada, baka ang ibig mong sabihin ay: nakarating daw sila sa* Canada *na!*

TV treats

MONDAY, Aug. 20 at 10 p.m. on the National Geographic channel, "Eco Tourism" shows how tourists can love Asia's heritage without destroying it.

At 9 p.m. on the same channel, "Cats: Caressing the Tiger" shows dramatic sequences on the behavior of canines.

Tuesday, Aug. 21 at 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Faces in the Forest" is about doctors at the forefront of a new movement in craniofacial surgery who help disfigured children in Lima, Peru.

Sunday, Aug. 26 at 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Chesapeake Born" is about the Chesapeake Bay Area and its denizens, including the people who live on the bay's islands and make their living from the Atlantic Blue Crab.

Songwriting seminar

FILSCAP announces the last module for its songwriting seminar this August.

"The Music Business" by **Peewee Apostol** and **Dottie Tadeo**, will be held from 1:30 to 7 p.m. on Aug. 25.

The seminar will equip the composer with an understanding of the business side of music, particularly in the country.

The lecture will be held at the FILSCAP office at Doña Consuelo Lim bldg., 1365 E. Rodriguez Sr., Quezon City. Call 721-3903 or 721-3768.

For inquiries, contact the Katha office at Unit 301 Cristina 1 bldg., Kalayaan ave., Diliman, Quezon City. Tel. nos. 433-4107 or 925-2705.

'LITTLE MERMAID'

Far from being wet

By Emmanuel V. Papa

REVIEW

BUTCH Jimenez of the Trumpets production outfit was right. "Little Mermaid" can be at par with the best theatrical productions in other parts of the world. Perhaps only another Trumpets production could top this one.

"Little Mermaid" is a story of unselfish love and faith in God triumphing over greed and deception. A little mermaid wants a soul so badly that she could feel how it is to love like human beings do. Out of this the story is woven, and it involves love and friendship, petty politics, hatred and greed.

Dianne de la Fuente as Princess Jewel is very impressive with her positively powerful voice, effective acting, and a lovely face to boot.

Carlo Orosa as Nicodemus, a slave without a soul, is goodwill personified. Unselfish, caring and loving, a friend like Nicodemus is what everyone needs these days.

Lynn Sherman is sheer energy. Cast as the wickedly electrifying Crustacea, Sherman is one of the characters that keep the musical alive as she portrays evil and greed, stealing Princess Jewel's voice and attempting to grab power from King Argo (Freddie Santos). She enthralls the crowd with her funny antics as well as with her singing voice. As her character demands perfection from others, Sherman, too, portrays corruption with near perfection.

But it is KC Concepcion who tops my list of reasons for watching "Little Mermaid."

Concepcion shines! As Princess Sapphire, the love interest of Prince Christian (Noel Rayos), Concepcion effortlessly takes command of the stage.

Even if she wore plain clothes, Concepcion would still be worthy of being hailed as a princess. Question that and you'll be exterminated.

The moment she sings her first song is momentous. She can sing! Her voice is soothing. She can also act.

Truly, a star is born. And I'm glad I have a front-row seat to witness this.

All the actors, including those who play the sailors, the sirens, the smallest villains make up a director's dream cast. For the cast as well as the unforgettable big ship, the gleaming, oversized clam, King Argo's kingdom, the gorgeous costumes, the enchanting underwater scenes, "Little Mermaid" certainly deserves more than the standing ovation it receives.

(The author, 21, is a graduating student of Physical Education at the University of the Philippines College of Human Kinetics.)

AQUATICA, the underwater kingdom in "Little Mermaid." Enchanting.

MTV Asia offers music scholarship

MTV Southeast Asia, with JVC Asia Pte. Ltd., will grant a music scholarship called "MTV/JVC Sound Education" to a talented, young individual in the region.

Working together for the first time, MTV and JVC are launching the MTV and JVC Sound Education campaign to give a talented young vocalist an opportunity to pursue a professional education in music.

Other participants will also get to walk away with attractive JVC and MTV prizes.

Subject to the judge's decision, the winner may also be offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to cut his/her own CD, produced by Victor Entertainment Studio in Tokyo, Japan.

MTV Southeast Asia and JVC will invite entries from around the region.

Participants are required to send a taped recording of their singing and a short write-up to P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, Philippines.

Deadline for submission of entries is Sept. 7. Finalists will be invited to Singapore on Sept. 28 for the finals.

Interested parties can find out more details and information on www.mtvasia.com.

Says Peter Bullard, senior vice president and managing director, MTV Southeast Asia, "MTV is committed to developing and discovering local, young talents in the region and give them exposure. The MTV and JVC Sound Education campaign provides a platform for budding talents in Southeast Asia to showcase their abilities and get that lucky break to start them on a career in music. It's our way of helping them realize their dreams."

Say a prayer . . .

(From page A30)

us would be that a newspaper such as the Philippine Daily Inquirer could never have been published, ABS-CBN would not have been back on the air. There would have been no TV Patrol, Saksi, Headlines, Frontpage, Debate, Isyu 101, The Probe Team, The Correspondents, I Witness, Magandang Gabi Bayan, and definitely no ANC.

In effect there would be no impartial, well-balanced newspapers and news and current affairs programs on TV and cable since there would still be no freedom of the press. We wouldn't have any senators, just assemblymen and women, since a bicameral congress wouldn't be in existence, just the Batasan Pambansa.

Taken for granted

There would be no live coverage of any Senate hearings. The issue about ROTC being abolished or made voluntary would never have even cropped up. Forget about the whole brouhaha about the eligibility of party-list groups; there would be none in existence.

For my friends who are addicted to shopping at S&R Price at The Fort, Fort Bonifacio would still be a military camp and home of political prisoners. Since there wouldn't have been a snap election in 1986 and the subsequent Edsa Revolution, there probably wouldn't be the thriving Ortigas Center, so no Megamall and Galleria either.

Oh, and there wouldn't be a P500 bill.

You see how much we all end up taking for granted? So tomorrow, I hope you'll find some time to remember and say a prayer for **Ninoy Aquino**.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

KLAUDIA Koronel (left) and Ina Raymundo in Jeffrey Jeturian's "Tuhog."

EDDIE Garcia and Cogie Domingo in Joel Lamangan's "Deathrow."

4 Pinoy movies in 5 foreign film festivals

FOUR Filipino films are participating in five international film festivals in different parts of the world, according to the Directors Guild of the Philippines Inc. (DGPI).

"Tuhog" by Jeffrey Jeturian, "Scorpio Nights 2" by Erik Matti, "Deathrow" by Joel Lamangan, and "Markova: Comfort Gay" by Gil Portes have been invited to participate in film festivals to be held in Venice, Paris, Toronto, Brussels,. Cairo and Pattaya, said a DGPI statement.

All four directors belong to the DGPI.

"The issues on freedom of expression in cinema and the current tendencies in the Philippine film industry" must have aroused the interest of international film communities to explore the new wave of young filmmakers in Philippine cinema, the statement said.

"Tuhog," starring Ina Raymundo and Klaudia Koronel, participates in the 58th Mostra Internazionale Zornale d'Arte Cinematografika in Venice, Italy, Aug. 29 to Sept. 8, 2001. Subtitled "Larger Than Life," it will take part in "Cinema of the Present —In Competition" whose jury is composed of five representatives from the world's most important film magazines.

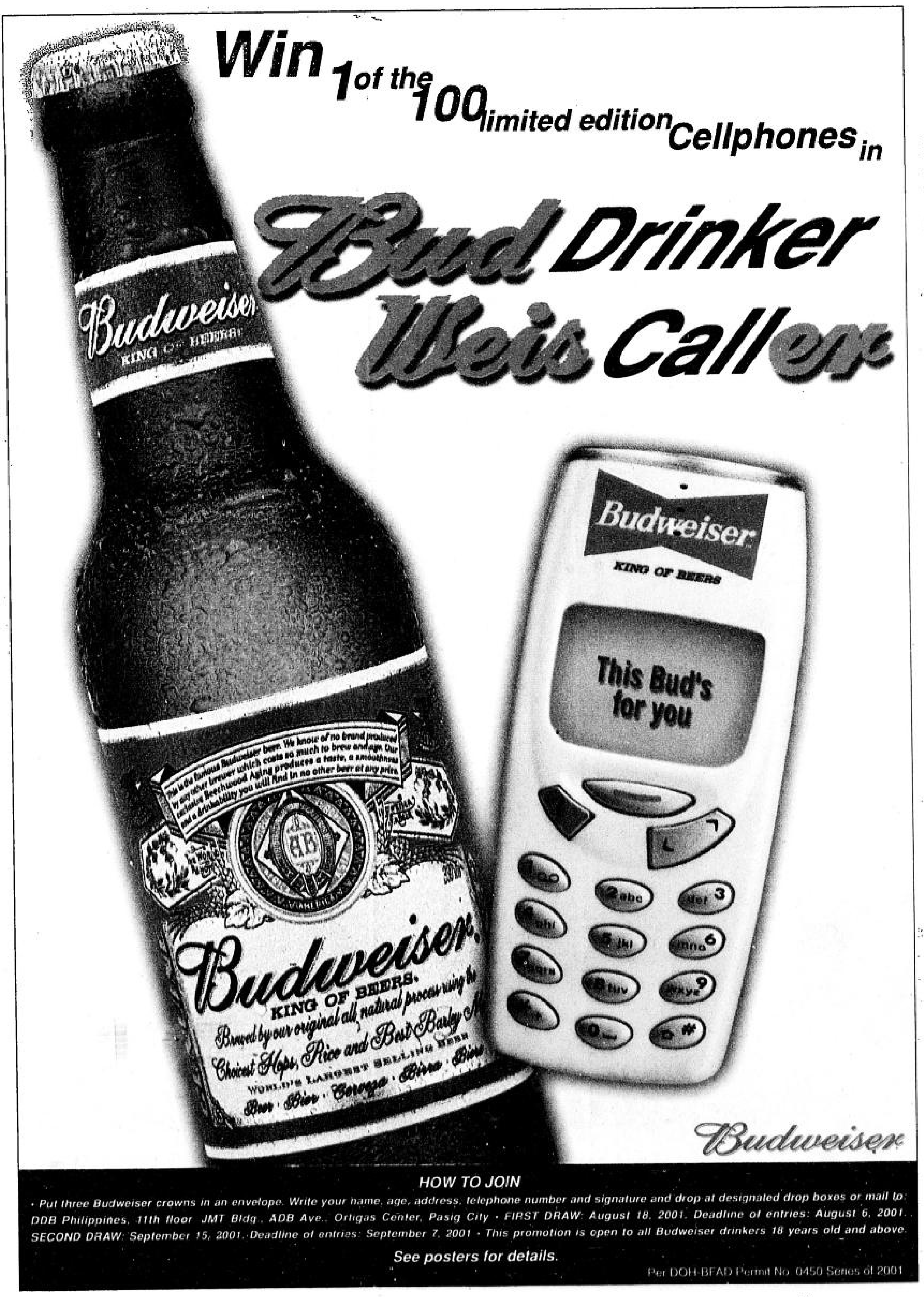
Jeturian, DGPI vice president, is happy that despite the poor showing of Filipino films in the local market, Philippine-made films continue to receive recognition from the international market.

Also in September, Matti prepares to leave for the Paris Autumn Film Festival with his "Scorpio Nights 2."

The Toronto International Film Festival, to be held Sept. 6 to 15, 2001, has also listed Lamangan's "Deathrow" and Portes' "Markova: Comfort Gay" for exhibition.

Robert Malengreau, a recent Manila visitor, also announced that "Deathrow" and "Markova: Comfort Gay" have been selected as official entries to the 23rd Festival International du Film

4 PINOY MOVIES/ A28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Say a prayer for my father

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

HAS it really been a year since I wrote my first INQUIRER article commemorating what was then my dad's 17th death anniversary?

Tomorrow it will be 18 years since his death, and my mom is fulfilling one of her dreams when the Aquino Center in Luisita, San Miguel, Tarlac will be inaugurated.

When we were living in Boston, it became SOP for my dad to bring all our guests from out of town to tour the Kennedy Library. My sisters and I would joke that because we'd been there so often we'd all practically memorized the spiels in the film presentation depicting John F. Kennedy's life. The Aquino Center will house much of my mom and dad's memorabilia. There will be a faithful recreation of my dad's Fort Bonifacio cell where he was incarcerated for most of the Martial Law years. My dad had always drawn much inspiration from the life of JFK and I'm sure he'd get a thrill out of having his own version of his favorite Boston tourist destination right in his own home province of Tarlac.

What's great is that there will be a place that will preserve all the photos, speeches and videos chronicling the very accomplished lives of both my parents.

My mom did mention that the place would be open to all visitors, tour groups, and those wanting to conduct seminars and attend lecture studies. I'll keep you posted via this space on the upcoming activities there.

Different perspective

I used to get offended when some people, although they meant well, would greet me "happy anniversary" every Aug. 21. Believe me, it has happened several times. I'd think, how could the anniversary of a death, more so an assassination, be considered a "happy" occasion?

Now I've learned to look at that greeting from a different perspective. My dad did die the death he'd have wanted, a meaningful death that galvanized his countrymen to unite and make a stand against a long entrenched and much feared dictatorship.

The battle cry at that time, "Ninoy, *hindi ka nag-iisa,*" takes on a more profound meaning because, for so many years before our US exile, my dad was literally alone. Alone because he was in solitary confinement. Alone because so few were willing to raise their voice with him against the Marcos regime. Alone because the Martial Law years had managed to practically erase him from the public's consciousness.

Present equivalent

I was never aware of how popular my dad was as a public servant because I was only 19 months old when he was jailed. People who were around during that time and who witnessed him in the flesh have often told me that he was an electrifying speaker, brilliant in his command of facts, but so charismatic in his delivery that everybody who had seen and heard him would be mesmerized.

I was trying to think of a present-day equivalent of what my dad was in September 1972. The closest I could come up with would be someone like Sen. **Loren Legarda**, young (my dad was two months shy of 40 when he was arrested), popular, a definite presidential contender, and well-liked and respected by the media.

Can you imagine how far forward our country has come in the past 30 years? There's no way that somebody like Senator Legarda could ever be arrested now with the same trumped-up charges that were brought against my dad.

And maybe that's why Aug. 21, though far from being a happy anniversary for our family, is nevertheless one that has depth of meaning and a sense of acceptance of God's divine will.

On that day, we lost our dad. Yet on that day, because of his death, our dad was able to fulfill his destiny. He was always saying that the Filipino was worth dying for, and he was able to lay down his life for the rebirth of his beloved country's democracy.

Without Aug. 21

Sometimes the principles my dad fought for seem already so distant and abstract to me, as I'm sure they are to many who are of my generation and younger. For most of our population, since we're such a young country, freedom is all we've known. Martial Law seems a distant memory.

At its most basic, though, had my dad's assassination on Aug. 21, 1983 not occurred, most likely we'd still be living under a dictatorship, the chosen Marcos heir or protegee still in control.

The tangible evidence affecting

SAY A PRAYER/ A29

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Banks offer to raise $400M for RP

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN investment banks HSBC Corp., Deutsche Bank and Banque Nationale de Paris have submitted separate proposals to handle a combined $400 million in new borrowings for the Macapagal administration.

Sources at the finance department said HSBC has offered to handle a "fully committed" loan worth $200 million for the government while Deutsche Bank and BNP proposed to raise at least $100 million each.

A source explained that HSBC and Deutsche Bank's offers were for private placements or loans maturing in five years.

The BNP proposal was to reopen sovereign bonds currently being traded in the overseas secondary market through the issuance of a five-year debt instrument worth $100 million.

Another source said the proceeds of the HSBC borrowing might be used by the government to re-lend to the cash-strapped National Power Corp. The state-run agency, according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, needs $530 million in financing this year.

The Deutsche and BNP loans could be used to finance the government's budget deficit next year.

Sources said Deutsche Bank, where Camacho used to work, had offered a spread of 4.2 percentage points over the six-month London interbank offered rate (Libor) and this was still being negotiated with the government.

HSBC, for its part, has offered a spread of 4.5 percentage points over Libor.

HSBC had undertaken a $220-million dollar swap maturing in three and five years. Deutsche Bank was tapped by the government to handle, along with Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and Multinational Investment Bancorporation, a P30-billion dollar-linked borrowing.

Camacho had said that the finance department would carefully study whether the national government still needed to obtain new loans when it has borrowed sufficiently to fund this year's estimated budget deficit of P145 billion.

"The budget deficit will be fully financed after the government has completed a planned $500-million global bond issue next month. The national government is pretty much covered this year," the finance chief said.

He said any additional borrowings after the 10-year global bond issue would be used to either re-lend to Napocor or to finance next year's projected P130-billion budget deficit.

The finance secretary said foreign financing offers continue to flood his office. He said the continued loan offers were indications of a returning confidence in the Philippine government and its economy.

He stressed, however, that the government's "fund-raising philosophy" was to obtain loans at the cheapest possible cost, help

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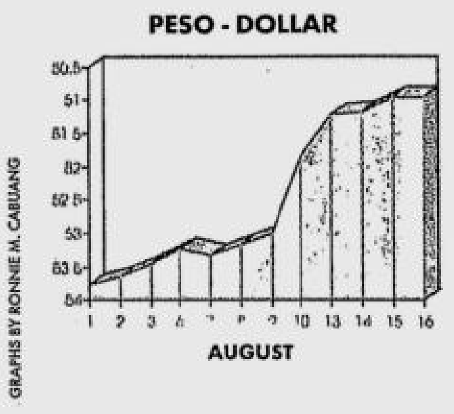

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P 51.14 = $1
As of 5 p.m., August 17, 2001

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The US dollar was trading at 119.34 as of 5 p.m., August 17, 2001

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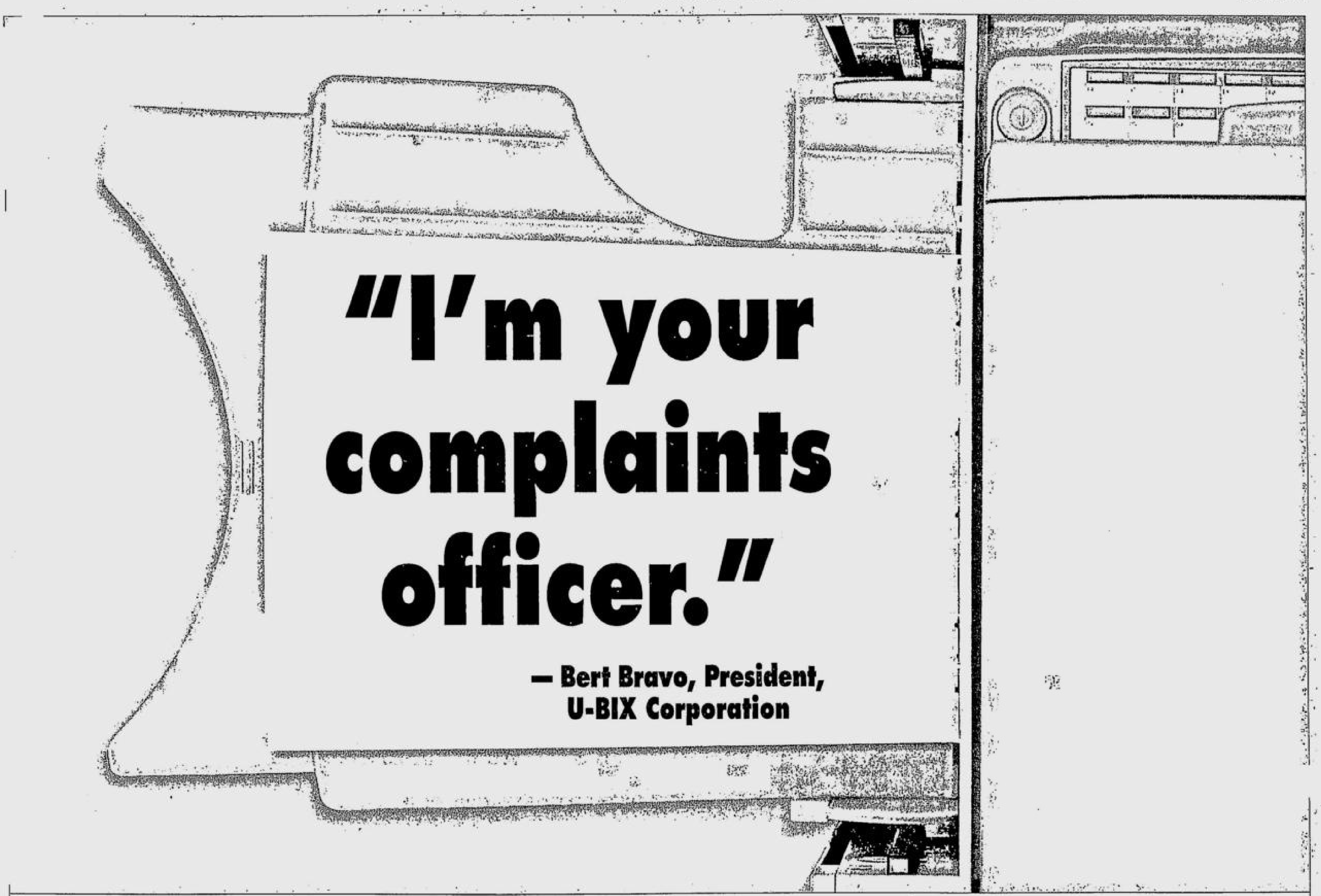
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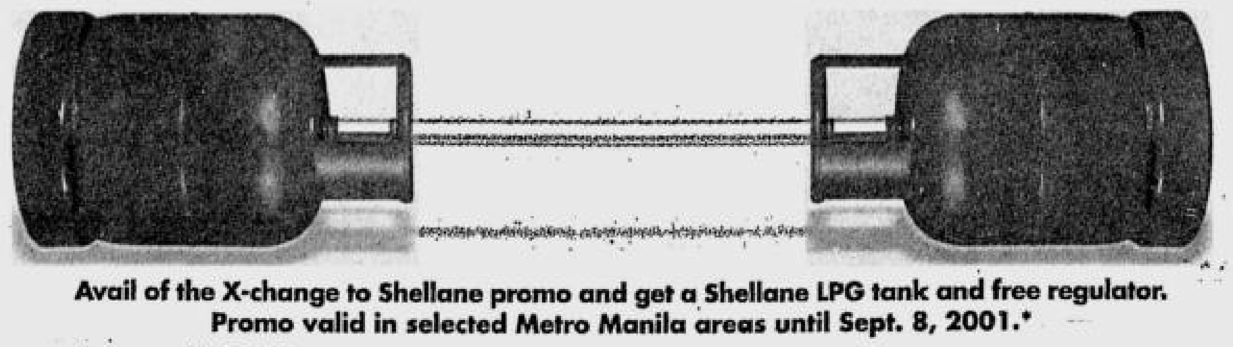

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US aircon firm to make RP hub for Asia-Pacific

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CONNECTICUT-BASED Carrier Air Conditioning Co., the world's leading airconditioner and refrigerator maker, is expanding its joint venture concern with Concepcion Industries Inc. into its manufacturing hub for the Asia-Pacific region.

The partnership, Concepcion-Carrier, is spending P591 million to beef up the production capacity of its plant in Cabuyao, Laguna, by 60 percent from 125,000 units to 200,000 units. The project is expected to start by January next year.

Concepcion-Carrier is already shipping part of its output to India and Guam but it is looking to broaden its overseas market by targetting the Asia-Pacific region, specifically Thailand, Hong Kong, Korea and Taiwan.

The project has been granted non-pioneer incentives by the Board of Investments, which conducted an inspection of the company's plant at the Light Industry and Science Park.

Concepcion-Carrier expects more growth in demand for heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) products in the region.

The company is equally optimistic on the prospects of the local market as it expects demand to rise steadily by 10 percent annually. It currently produces window, split type and package type room air-conditioners for the domestic market.

The firm will source some inputs from local suppliers such as metallic parts, hot rolled coils, insulators, solvents, and carton boxes. Other inputs such as aluminum finstock, air filters, compressors and accessories, and terminal blocks would be imported from Australia, Taiwan, Korea and Japan.

Carrier acquired a 51-percent interest in Concepcion Industries' air-conditioner business in December 1997.The venture registered net sales of P2.46 billion in net sales last year, up 8.7 percent from P2.26 billion in 1999.

MCDONALD'S EXECS VISIT RP

McDonald's Jim Skinner (second from left), president and chief operating officer, Europe/Asia-Pacific, and Russ Smyth (right), vice president and relationship partner, were in the country recently to gain a better understanding of the business environment and express their commitment to the growth of McDonald's in the Philippines. They were welcomed at the airport by McDonald's Philippines founder and president, George T. Yang (second from right), and Joseph S. Lau, managing director.

Smart threatens to cut link-up with Nextel

By Abigail L. Ho

SMART Communications Inc. will withdraw its interconnection agreement with Nextel Communications Philippines Inc. if the latter does not subscribe to its proposed revision of their agreement.

"We'll be renegotiating the rates with Nextel. We already sent them a letter last week, but we have received no response from them yet," Smart's legal, external and carrier relations head Rogelio Quevedo told the INQUIRER last Friday.

Under their existing agreement, Smart and Nextel agreed to pay each other P3 per minute for calls made from Smart cellular phones to Nextel handsets and vice versa.

But Quevedo said these rates were no longer reflective of the whole telecommunications industry.

"We've already renegotiated with Globe (Telecom), Digitel (Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.), BayanTel (Bayan Telecommunications Inc.) and Paptelco (Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies)," he said.

In a multiple interconnection agreement signing last month, Smart agreed to pay P2 per minute for calls coming from Smart cellular phones going to Digitel, Globe and Isla Communications Inc. landlines.

These landline providers, on the other hand, agreed to pay Smart P6.50 per minute for landline to cellular phone calls. This rate will be reduced to P4.50 per minute starting Jan. 1, 2002.

Smart is now asking Nextel for the same P2-P4.50 rate instead of the existing P3-P3 agreement.

"Our agreement with Globe can't be used as a benchmark because we're both cellular service providers, while Nextel is a trunk radio operator," Quevedo said.

Globe and Smart agreed to pay each other P3 for calls made to and from each other's networks.

Also, Nextel failed to come to an interconnection agreement with Globe because the two parties could not agree on the rates.

Nextel wanted Globe to adopt the P3-P3 agreement the former has with Smart, but Globe did not agree to this.

Globe argued that Nextel was not a cellular service provider so it was not entitled to reciprocal compensation.

"If they want to be treated as a CMTS (cellular mobile telephone system), they should roll out 400,000 landlines," Globe assistant vice president for legal affairs Froilan Castelo said.

Pacific Internet eyes prepaid mart

THE COUNTRY'S leading and only regional Internet solutions provider Pacific Internet Philippines is moving to gain the lead in the prepaid card market.

"For teens and young adults who love their independent lifestyle and prefer the flexibility and anxiety-free features of a prepaid Net card, Pacific Speedsurf provides them with worry-free access to infinite adventures on the Net," said Pacific Internet president Jojie Yap.

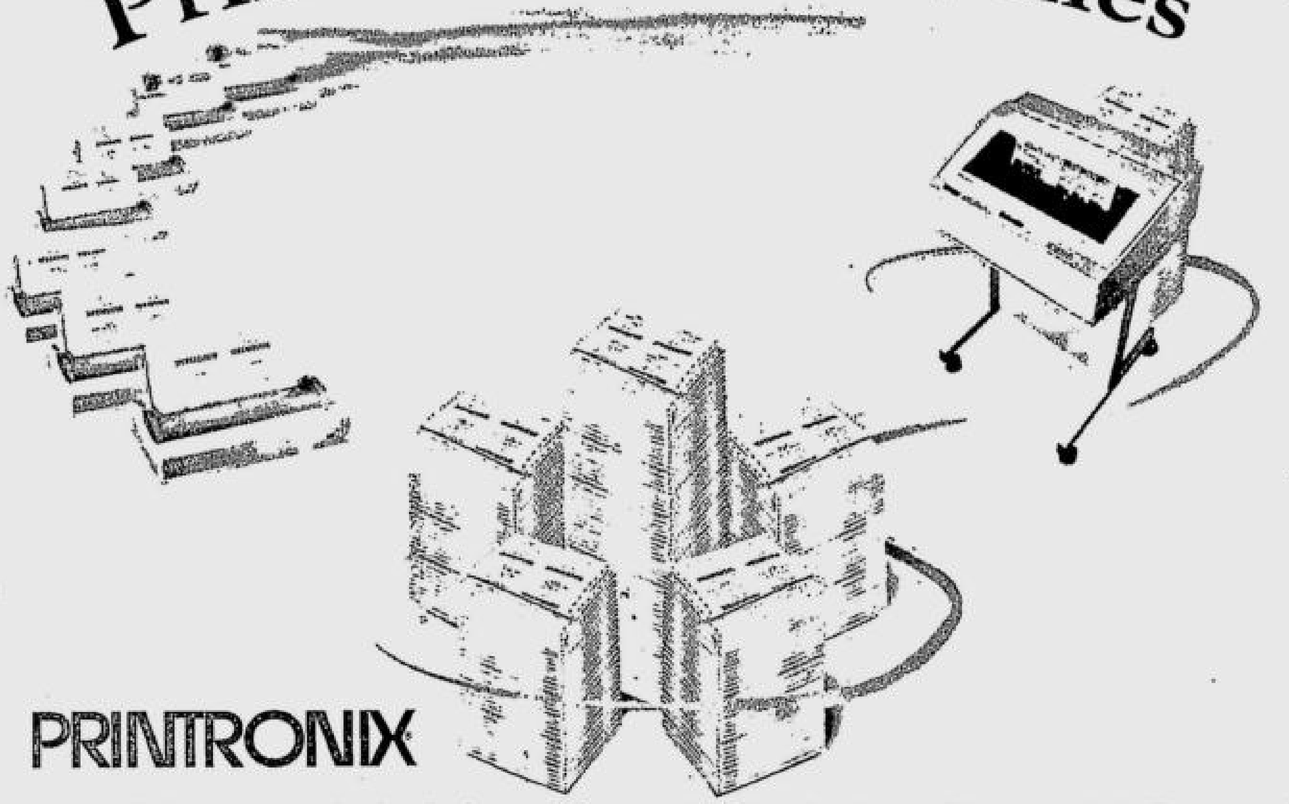
The Pacific Speedsurf prepaid card is targeted at current and first-time prepaid card users who want to control Internet expense and usage, and avoid the many hassles in application, activation and set up of account, and monthly billings, Yap said.

Yap said Speedsurf would provide every user with one-megabyte Web space, a personal e-mail address, mailbox space of 2 MB, and 60-day account termination/expiration after initial login or until free hours stated on the card are used up, whichever comes first.

E-mail address termination or expiration is also 60 days after creation or renewal, according to Pacific Internet vice president Manny Escosa.

Pacific Internet is the leading and most experienced regional ISP in Asia offering award-winning Internet solutions. It was voted Best ISP in Asia for three consecutive years (1999-2001).

In the Philippines, Pacific Internet serves a large network of both dial-up and corporate leased-line customers.



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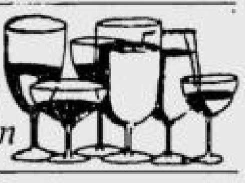
Subic switcheroo

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

TAIPAN John Gokongwei Jr. can have the Subic shipyard.

This was the position taken by Enrique Razon Jr., chair of International Container Terminal Services Inc., one of the minority partners in the Keppel-run shipyard in Subic.

Razon was reacting to the stunning reversal made by the Supreme Court nullifying the 1993 bid award to the Keppel consortium in favor of the JG Summit consortium.

"We are not unhappy with the Supreme Court decision," Razon said in a statement.

Since 1995 when the Keppel consortium took over, the shipyard has made only "miniscule returns," Razon said, adding that Keppel's management has been "lackluster at best."

"Although the peso was 25 to $1 then, we prefer to get our money back (now) than continue to hold on to the investment."

"For JG Summit, this is a case of 'Be careful of what you wish for, you just might get it'," Razon said.

Officially, though, Razon and the rest of the Keppel consortium have asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision ordering the Asset Privatization Trust to return the P2.1315 billion paid by the Keppel group and instead re-award the shipyard to the JG Summit-Sembawang-Jurong consortium.

The JG Summit group had actually won the bidding, but lost the same after the APT allowed the Keppel consortium the right to top JG Summit's offer.

The Supreme Court said the right to top extended to the Keppel group was illegal since "a non-bidder (was) accorded the right to top the highest bid, the non-bidder being Kawasaki Heavy Industries, the minority joint venture partner of the government for the Subic shipyard.''

Worse, Kawasaki exercised the right to top through its nominee, Philyard Holdings Inc., a group composed of the losing bidders, the Supreme Court noted.

To compound the error, the APT awarded the shipyard to a foreign-controlled consortium, the Supreme Court said, maintaining that shipyards are public utilities and, therefore, subject to the maximum 40-percent foreign ownership ceiling.

But the lawyers for the Keppel consortium, Sycip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan, claimed that the Supreme Court had misread Batas Pambansa 391, which repealed the entire Section 1 of Presidential Decree 666 that declassified shipbuilding and ship repair industry as a public utility.

"Despite the passage and even the seemingly unqualified language of BP 391, the legislative and the executive branches of the government

COCKTALES/ B4

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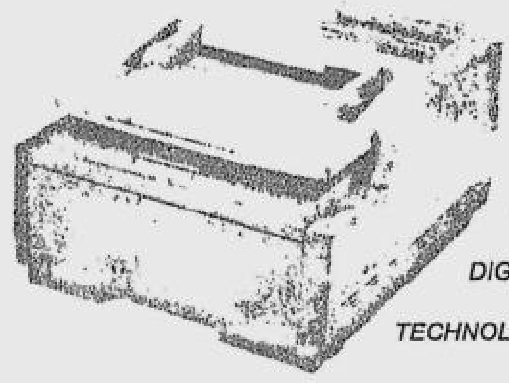

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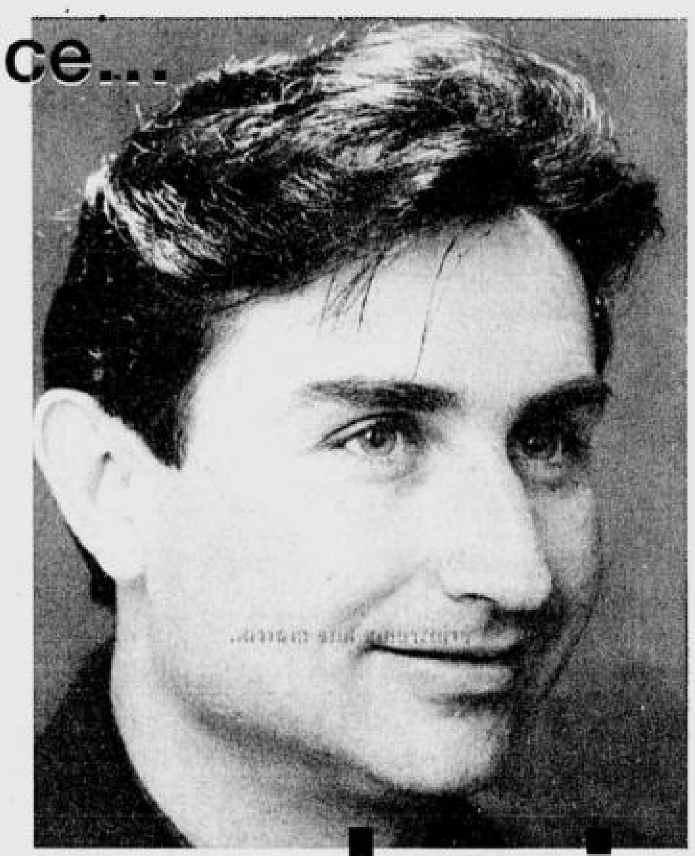

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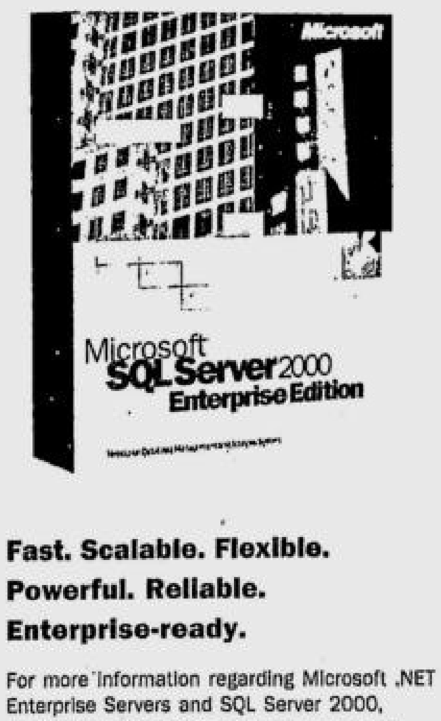

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2001 (Thursday)
Makati Shangri-la Hotel
Growth of Franchising in Asia: An Overview
Industry Update: Trends and Innovations *(11 Country Reports Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Korea, Japan, China and Canada)*
Economic Prospects of Asia Pacific Economics in the Medium Term
Franchising in Europe
Franchising in Latin America
How to Expand Your Franchise Network

SEPTEMBER 14, 2001 (Friday)
Makati Shangri-la Hotel
Global Trends and Innovations
Franchising Industry in the U.S.
Voices Experience: From the "Masters" of Franchising
Franchising as a Tool for Economic Development
Roles of Franchisors in the Shopping Mall

Track 1: FINANCE
Acquiring Capital to Build Your Franchise Network

Track 2: LEGAL
Structuring a Franchise Agreement
Arbitration as an Alternative Solution to Settle Disputes
Workshop on Legal Aspects in Franchising
* Unidroit Law

Track 3: MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT
Supporting Your Franchisees: Strategies That Build Winning Relationships
Motivating and Retaining Your Best Employees
Re-EngineeringYour Franchise Network
Elements of Successful Franchising

Track 4: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Using Internet Technolgy to Expand Your Business
eBusiness Strategies and Solutions

SPECIAL SESSION
September 14, 2001 (Friday) Makati Shangri-la Hotel

Franchise Sales and Marketing Strategies
Don Boroian, Chairman, Francorp International

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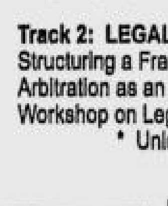

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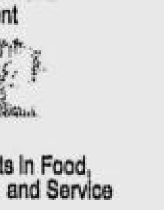

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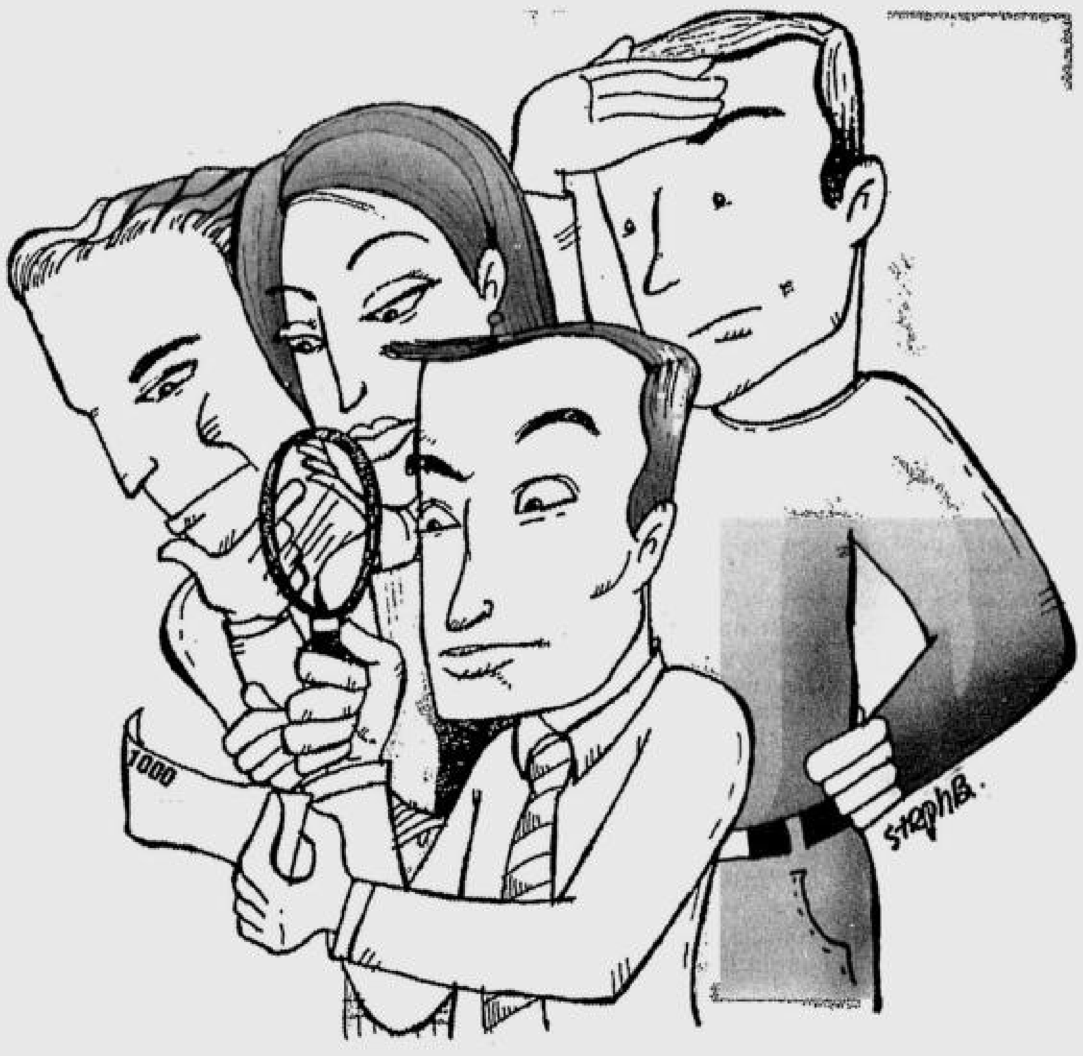

Old, durable abaca now in peso bills

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

THE PHILIPPINES has long been making rope, handicrafts and even clothes out of the indigenous abaca fiber or Manila hemp. But it took other countries like Japan to prove that abaca can also be used to make paper notes.

Now, after much research and experimentation, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is following suit. Starting this year, the P100, P500 and P1,000 bills will use paper with 20 percent abaca content, replacing part of the old cotton-linen blend used to produce US dollars. Abaca will also be used soon for the P50 and P20 bills.

"The use of the abaca fiber, which is indigenous to the Philippines, is a source of great national pride. The decision to include the fiber in local currency is supported by a scientific research showing improved characteristics for Philippine bank notes," says BSP Deputy Governor Armando Suratos in a paper entitled "The use of abaca in the manufacture of banknote paper."

Manila hemp

To the indiscriminate eye, the abaca plant looks very much like its cousin, the banana. But while the banana is prized for its fruit, the abaca's value lies on its layers of leaf sheaths, considered one of the world's strongest natural fibers.

Bundles of these fiber strands, which can be up to 3 meters in length, are used in rope and textile manufacturing while individual fiber cells can be separated from these bundles for paper making.

The pulp is used in the production of bank notes, although as much as 80 percent of the pulp are used to produce specialty papers such as diapers, paper towels, cigarette column wrap paper, vacuum bags and even roof tiles.

Filipinos point to the Bicol region as the home of abaca, mainly due to its warm, humid climate and volcanic soil. As early as 1918, abaca was already one of the Philippines' major exports.

More than 80 years later, the Philippines remains the world's largest producer of abaca, supplying about 84 percent of the world's requirements.

The abaca industry, however, suffered a major setback when the demand for the fiber suddenly dipped. But it is now enjoying a revival, especially after Japan decided to use abaca for producing yen.

Suratos said in the paper he delivered during the 2001 Currency Conference in Barcelona, Spain, that exports of abaca pulp had grown by 52 percent from 8,618 tons in 1989 to 13,071 tons in 1999.

"Japan and Germany together absorb a total of 85 percent of the Philippines' total abaca pulp exports," he said, and almost all are used to produce their paper currencies.

Abaca in pesos

The central bank has actually considered using abaca for bank note paper as early as the 1980s. Suratos said tests on different combinations of abaca as well as cotton-linen blends were conducted to make sure that the paper will hold up against traditional paper.

"Based on the BSP's laboratory test results, the 90/10 cotton/abaca blend exhibited the best physico-chemical properties and printing quality, followed by the 80/20 blend. Nevertheless, the 80/20 blend is preferred because of its higher abaca component," Suratos explained.

It took years before the right combination was found because bank note paper is no ordinary paper. Bank notes must have its own exclusive characteristics such as the stiffness and grip, sound, and appearance of the watermark. Suratos stressed that an experienced cashier must be able to tell the difference between bank notes and counterfeit money.

"Research shows that abaca fiber, after proper refining, exhibits qualities suitable for banknote paper production," he added.

The bank notes using abaca were also engineered and manufactured to survive the rigors of thousands of folds as well as numerous cycles of soaking and drying. The paper should also be highly resistant to tearing. It should also be able to hold ink and perform well in printing presses operating at high speed and tremendous pressure.

Suratos said abaca alone could not be used as bank notes because it is thinner and its level of opacity or "show through" values was below par. But blend abaca with cotton and the resulting paper meets all the characteristics of a good bank note.

Benefits

Suratos said the BSP pushed for the use of abaca in the local currency since the resulting paper bills would be stronger than the old paper, despite the marginal 5-percent increase in production cost.

OLD/ B6

Cocktales . . .

(From page B3)

have not considered shipyards ... as public utilities," Sycip Salazar said.

The Keppel counsel also maintained that the right to top was not biased for Kawasaki and did not impair free competition as maintained by the Supreme Court; "on the contrary, it constituted the imposition of a burden on Kawasaki for the benefit of the Philippine government and at the same time enhanced competition."

Greenbelt goners

THE ONCE-HOT Tony Roma's at the corner of Makati Avenue and Dela Rosa Street has shut down, in case you have not been to Ayala's Greenbelt lately.

One of the more prominent casualties of the Greenbelt redevelopment, Tony Roma's is relocating to nearby Glorietta where, according to the grapevine, the American chain has opted for a much reduced space (Tony's Little Roma?) in keeping with the tight times.

Its erstwhile neighbor, Mario's, has preceded it by a few months, although the homegrown steakhouse has instead chosen to relocate to the Greenbelt proper, on the second floor of the mall where the movie houses are.

Despite opting for a smaller footprint, Mario's has enlarged its name, appending "Kitchen" to it to reflect its new café-atmosphere and friendlier prices. Some even swear the food has also improved.

Meanwhile, the mostly Italian-named boutiques on Greenbelt's ground floor have one after another been migrating to Glorietta, their vacated spaces, per Ayala's redevelopment plan, to be taken over by fast-food shops instead.

A similar switch is happening over at Glorietta. Area's store and café, for instance, has permanently closed down and have moved on to Rockwell, where it has a much-focused market.

Area's neighboring antique and jewelry shops have also shuttered, and will be replaced by more fast-food outlets, according to the notices posted outside the shuttered shops.

Short takes

● FOUR candidates have so far signified their intention to seek the three upcoming vacancies in the hotly contested Manila Polo Club board. The four are Cesar Bautista (not to be confused with the ambassador/ex-DTI secretary), Reynaldo Concepcion, and two Vicente Lims, the younger one being a son of Elena Lim of Sony fame.

● THE LONG awaited last book of the Last Lion trilogy may no longer see print.

According to a recent New York Times report, author William Manchester has been "too (en)feeble(d)" and his mind "too diminished" by two strokes to ever finish the biography-series on Winston Churchill.

Publisher Little, Brown has so far been unsuccessful in persuading the 79-year-old author to accept a collaborator to finish what he had begun.

Heard through the grapevine

TODAY'S meeting between Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and the oppositors to the Naia Terminal 3 contract has been postponed for Wednesday.

Alvarez has promised to give copies of the controversial Erap-amended Naia Terminal 3 contract to the oppositors, composed of airport service contractors and cargo handlers, led by the Delgados, who are likely to be displaced by a German-San Juan Chinoy group.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Our economic failure

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

THURSDAY, I sat with my feet up on my desk watching the trading at the Philippine Stock Exchange. It was a little after 10 a.m. and the total peso value of trading was under 50 million. After more than 30 minutes of trading, only 20 issues, out of almost 200, had any trades at all. Last Friday, 77 stocks traded. And of that 77, 34 shares traded less than P100,000 of value. Activity on the exchange is so poor that there is almost no reason for it to be open every day. Maybe when the PSE becomes a listed company, the trading symbol ought to be MWF or even TTH.

Regardless of what the experts might tell you, trading activity has fallen to these levels because of one major factor—the Securities Regulation Code. This law is so badly written and so ill conceived that even the President commented that there has to be some changes made. No, please, don't change it. Repeal it and start over. You read in the newspapers every week or so that a foreign broker is closing down. I have no problems with that as I have repeatedly said. However, what is happening behind the scenes with the local brokers (and not reported by anyone) is much worse. Almost a dozen local stockbrokers are contemplating stopping their operations. I think that the only thing they have been waiting for is the completion of the demutualization of the exchange that took place this month. Now that ownership has been transferred into shares, we may see a spate of closures unless Congress acts quickly to put in place a realistic and modern securities law.

If there is going to be any improvement in stock prices, I think it will come only after PLDT (TEL) reaches the current target of P500. Many of the big stocks have reached technical support and look like they want to go up. But PLDT still needs to drop another 10 percent or so to reach its support area. That is the good news. The bad news is that if TEL goes below P500, then P400 is the target. That would place the Phisix at about 1070.

On the economic front, the agricultural production numbers continue to look good. I believe that economic growth is going to be at the top end of all the forecasts. Thank God for agriculture. It is too bad the government (this and all past governments) has not put the required energy, money and political will into giving the country the ability to feed itself without imports. If you overlay the economic growth rate over a chart of the agricultural growth rate for the last 15 years, you will see an absolute correlation between the two. No matter who occupies Malacañang, no matter the price of the peso, no matter the interest rate, in fact, no matter ANYTHING, economic growth tracks agri production. And if you are interested in stocks, guess what else tracks agricultural production? Only when agriculture grows does the economy grow. Maybe next time we should elect a farmer as President. If you email me, I will send you the chart.

The thing that absolutely amazes me is that the Makati Business Club types know that this is true.

Ask Danding Cojuangco about beer sales in relation to agri growth. Ask the people at M.Y. San how biscuit sales are when rice harvests are down. Despite that fact, the government is still out there trying to get investments from abroad to build rubber shoe or maybe even rocket ship factories. When Ernie Maceda left to go to the United States as our ambassador, I sat with him over a bottle of wine, along with some others including then Secretary of Agriculture Angara. One of the comments that the ambassador made, which was concurred with by Angara, was that seeds are very expensive in the Philippines. Maceda said that he would make an effort to encourage *balikbayans* to bring in vegetable seeds to donate to local agri cooperatives and NGOs. I do not know what came of his idea but it sure makes more sense for this kind of *pasalubong* than a kilo of gummi bears or a TV.

The same people that talk about the economic success of China refuse to look at the reasons for that success. Ten years ago, the Chinese government set out to accomplish one goal—agricultural self-sufficiency. In other words, they decided to make China able to feed itself. Only then could the economic growth that they are enjoying today come about. Here, our leaders are almost embarrassed by the fact that so much of our economic output depends on farmers and fishermen. Maybe it is, again, because of what I said last week—too much book learning at US schools. Interestingly, there is only one area in which the US has a positive trade balance (meaning they export more than they import)—agricultural products.

I have three business proposals for investment sitting on my desk right now. All are in agriculture and all will yield at least a 25-percent yearly return, not to mention being good for the country and the economy. And I can't get anybody to seriously consider putting even a little money into these business plans. Growing more food more efficiently is just not "sexy" enough. Unfortunately, the Philippines cannot afford to be "sexy" right now until we can feed our people by ourselves.

In my opinion, there are only three areas of economic development that will lead to genuine and sustainable economic growth. These are agriculture, tourism and natural resources. The Philippines is failing on all three.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

Standard Insurance plans merger, delays IPO to 2002

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

LEADING vehicle insurer Standard Insurance Co. Inc. is scouting for another local non-life insurance company to merge with in order to expand its business prior to a P1-billion initial public offering.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Standard Insurance president Ernesto Echauz said the company had submitted merger proposals to other smaller non-life insurance companies, a move toward product complementation and sharing of expertise.

He said the company decided to defer the IPO planned for this year due to the lingering weakness of the capital market.

"Although IPO-ready for some time now, we are just waiting for a good time to launch our IPO, maybe by the first half of next year when economic conditions may improve," Echauz said.

In the meantime, Echauz said the company would focus its efforts on increasing market volume and that a merger with another institution could achieve such purpose. He said merger proposals were submitted to bank-affiliated insurance companies because these are the ones likely to maintain a strong balance sheet.

"This merger could be a better move than an IPO itself and if we do it, we become more attractive for the IPO," he explained.

Most likely, Echauz said the deal would be a merger of equals but Standard Insurance would be the surviving entity because of its bigger business volume.

One of the companies Standard Insurance was looking at, Echauz said, had a net worth of around P400-P500 million as against its own P800 million while the volume of business was around P500 million compared with its P900 million.

"It could be an acquisition or it could be an outright merger," he said.

For the first half of the year, Standard Insurance posted a 14-percent increase in net premium income to P479 million, with all of its 43 branches and car dealer tie-ups posting significant growth despite the difficult environment.

The highest growth of 25 percent was posted by its Metro Manila branches.

"If we do an IPO it will bring in additional cash. It will improve investment income but the volume of business will not significantly increase. We are IPO-ready but if we are able to combine with another company, it becomes a bigger entity and then when market conditions improve, it will be more attractive to do an IPO," Echauz explained.

The company has tapped SB Capital to underwrite the planned IPO. The original plan was to offer to the public about 100 million new shares equivalent to 30 percent of total equity.

The company's paid-up capitalization of P360 million currently stands as the highest in the local non-life insurance industry. With the IPO proceeds, the company plans to firm up its leading position in the motorcar insurance business.

Standard Insurance generates 60 percent of its businesses from motorcar insurance, 30 percent from fire insurance and 10 percent from marine and personal insurance. It was one of the most profitable non-life insurers in the country last year with a net income after tax of P98 million, slightly lower than the P105 million in 1999.

The company was founded and controlled by the Echauz family, which likewise owns majority of publicly listed institution Centro Escolar University.

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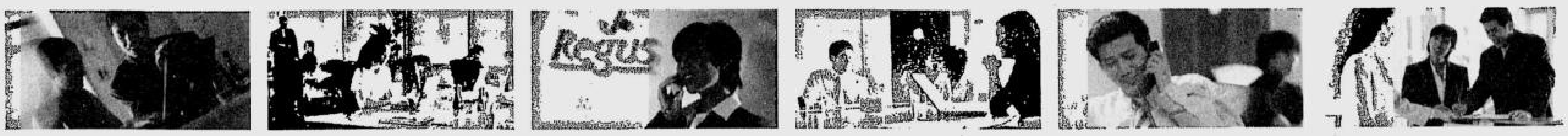
With no long-term forecast for the economy



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Fed rate cut seen lifting interest in local stocks

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARKET PLAY

AFTER a slightly upbeat week supported by the appreciating peso, local stocks are seen to resume listless trading this week even if they have fallen to oversold levels.

While a lot of stocks have hit attractive price levels, bargain-hunters are still not expected to come in droves due to uncertainties on the foreign exchange front. The market is still not convinced that the strengthening of the local currency would be sustainable given continued weakness in export receipts.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index inched up by 11.94 points or 0.92 percent to close at 1,306.07 as profit-taking ahead of the weekend trimmed the gains posted by the market earlier in the week.

"It seems that the market has settled back again. This inability to sustain rallies is indicative of investor tentativeness given the lack of any major improvement in fundamentals," BPI Securities analyst Spencer Yap said.

Yap noted that the accumulation last week was driven in part by the low share prices of many index issues, which inspired some investors to bet that the market had bottomed out and that the corporate sector would begin to show signs of improvement in the second half.

"In our opinion, the market is likely to remain in consolidation until some fresh news becomes public. Third quarter results will be important in that investors will be looking for any indication of a turnaround in corporate earnings performance. This may be enough to push the market past several strong resistance levels at 1,350 and 1,400," Yap said.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan agreed that the month was shaping up to be extremely listless and directionless as there has not been enough good news on the corporate and macroeconomic fronts to get the market moving on a sustained basis.

"On a near-term basis, the market is oversold. There are tons of cash sitting on the sides, but the funds are not willing to get involved with the risks stemming from economic uncertainties. With the economic troubles here and abroad, we are not yet ready to call a bottom," Vistan said.

"Another interest rate cut from the US Federal Reserve this week may perhaps inspire a short-term rally, but not a longer-term upward momentum. We believe there are further risks on the downside unless things change dramatically. We would advise investors to wait given the uncertainties. As no one can predict when an economic turnaround will happen, we'd rather be conservative," he said.

While the peso appreciation has eased some fears, BPI Securities technical analyst Roberto Cano said investors remained cautious on the sustainability of the peso's strength.

"Investors would like to have a stable peso. If the peso sustains the 51: $1 range and the volatility narrows, this may help build some degree of confidence in the market. However, it seems that politics has taken the limelight again. Investors would like to see the legislative and executive departments tackle more pressing matters that would help put in place economic reforms," Cano said.

Cano projected that the market would likely consolidate between 1,300 and 1,325, providing bargain hunters an opportunity to accumulate.

Local chemical firm sets IPO this year

By Elena R. Torrijos

UNFAZED by the lackluster performance of the stock market, Federal Chemicals Inc., a sealant and adhesives maker, plans to undertake an initial public offering at the Philippine Stock Exchange to raise P81.25 million to P93.75 million for raw material imports and for additional working capital.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Fedchem sought to offer to the public 12.5 million new common shares, which have a par value of P1 each, at P6.50 to P7.50 per share under a second board listing on the exchange.

The IPO would increase the company's total outstanding shares to 37.5 million and bring the company's market capitalization anywhere between P243.8 million and P281.3 million. Fedchem has tapped RCBC Capital Corp. as underwriter for the issue.

The company reported a net income of P4.8 million for the first seven months of this year and projected this would rise to P12 million by year's end, to P27.3 million next year and to P44.7 million in 2003.

Fedchem has an authorized capital stock of P100 million and its main stockholders are chair Wilfred Co and vice chair Charles Kwa.

The Co family is the owner of the biggest and fully integrated manufacturer and marketer of polyvinyl products in the country while the Kwa family, a pioneer in the paint and hardware trade, owns paint producer Mayon Industrial Corp.

Fedchem said it expected its sales to increase by an average of 42 percent over the next three years with competitive pricing and better terms.

With the proceeds of the IPO, Fedchem said it would be able to price its products more competitively and further improve its profit margins since it will be able to reduce cost by directly importing its raw materials from foreign suppliers instead of relying on middlemen traders.

Moreover, the company said it would be in a better position to extend more liberal terms of payment to its customers.

If its IPO pushes through this year, Fedchem would be the third company to list on the PSE this year and the first for the year on the secondary board.

Earlier, software developer SQL Wizard listed on the exchange's small and medium enterprises board, followed by property firm Primex.

Banks offer to raise $400M for RP

(From page B1)

lengthen the maturity profile of the country's loans, balance foreign and local loans and make sure that the government was not crowding out the domestic market.

"We also want to be more creative, to expand our investor and creditor base for both local and international markets, to diversify and tap different and possibly new markets for our borrowings," he said.

The finance chief said that if the government would start borrowing its requirements for next year, the offers must be "good and compelling." Otherwise, the government can postpone it to a better time and wait for even better offers.

Just recently, the Bureau of Treasury lined up another low-yield dollar-denominated borrowing for the government, this time worth as much as $200 million from the issuance of one-year treasury bills to be arranged by Citibank N.A. this month.

The fresh borrowing has brought to more than $1.2 billion the foreign borrowings the government has so far signed, excluding the P30-billion dollar-linked bonds to be issued soon.

Old . . .

(From page B4)

The abaca blend also protects the industry from the proliferation of counterfeit bills as the fiber is not readily available.

"It is foreseeable that in time, the BSP will pursue higher abaca content, 30 percent and perhaps even as high as 50 percent. Here again, the goal will not solely be one of increasing the amount of domestically produced fiber in the banknote. Rather, the goal will be to increase the strength properties of the banknote paper, resulting in longer circulation life," Suratos said.

The decision will also benefit the whole local abaca manufacturing industry as abaca will eventually take its place as one of the world's most important fibers, by virtue of its use as currency.

Flax fiber, which is used in US currency paper, for instance, now enjoys an international reputation as a superior complement to cotton fiber.

"In time, the use of abaca in the peso bills, combined with research and development efforts of our paper suppliers will provide other issuing authorities (aside from Japan) the opportunity to try abaca for their currency notes," Suratos added.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, August 17, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	63	63.5	63	63	9,100
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	40
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	31.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	258,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	208	211	208	211	18,460
Philippine National Bank	50	52	50	52	1,252,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	243	243	243	243	240
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1460	1450	1460	1,020
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1200	1200	1190	1190	1,570
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	36	36	36	36	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	1,180,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	640	640	640	80
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	10,230,000
Piltel	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	565	570	550	550	94,750
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	36,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	33	33.5	32.5	32.5	63,800
Manila Electric Co. B	41.5	43.5	41.5	43.5	3,062,200
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.9	1.84	1.88	2,150,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.02	2.02	1.98	1.98	90,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	33,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	212,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	177,700
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	26	26	25.5	26	5,900
RFM Corp.	2.34	2.34	2.3	2.32	1,080,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	35,600
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54	53.5	53.5	209,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	40,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	250,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1	1	0.98	1	260,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	4,000,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	1,453,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	220,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	1,000,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	60,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2	1.98	1.98	1,542,000
Medco Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.16	550,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.68	0.69	170,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	140,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	160,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	270,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	570,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.49	440,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	1,732,700
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	10.75	11	10.75	10.75	4,700
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	510	510	510	510	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	50,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.014	0.014	0.012	0.013	194,800,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	6,755,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	5,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	620,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.9	1.96	1.9	1.94	907,000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.55	90,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	2,520,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	2,300,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	13,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.046	0.05	0.044	0.05	151,700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	40,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	4,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	310,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,541,430	80,055,690.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	316,525,130	348,869,030.00
PRO	13,747,000	51,351,230.00
Mining	165,140,000	7,252,800.00
OIL	4,310,000	131,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	501,315,560	487,813,400.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	542.68	UP 5.62
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,830.68	DOWN 17.47
PRO	506.30	DOWN 9.38
Mining	1,285.38	UP 8.95
OIL	1.70	UP 0.01
All Shares Index	770.62	DOWN 2.02
Composite	1,306.17	DOWN 10.05

NO. OF ADVANCES: 16; NO. OF DECLINES: 32; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 77; NO. OF TRADES: 1,551

CURRENCIES

Aug. 17, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.095530	1.000000	51.1010
Japan	Yen	0.009127	0.008331	0.4257
United Kingdom	Pound	1.583479	1.445400	73.8614
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140633	0.128370	6.5598
Switzerland	Franc	0.658055	0.600673	30.6950
Canada	Dollar	0.712679	0.650533	33.2429
Singapore	Dollar	0.627092	0.572410	29.2507
Australia	Dollar	0.576899	0.526593	26.9094
Bahrain	Dinar	2.906070	2.652661	135.5536
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.292142	0.266667	13.6270
Brunei	Dollar	0.626018	0.571429	29.2006
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000126	0.000115	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024552	0.022411	1.1452
UAE	Dirham	0.298347	0.272331	13.9164
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.000785	0.0401
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.912800	46.6450
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.466707	23.8492
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139155	7.1110
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.414211	21.1666
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066336	3.3898
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022628	1.1563
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000471	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153522	7.8451
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004553	0.2327
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005486	0.2803
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.022628	1.1563
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.159017	59.2269

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ALABANG "A"	1,800,000	ALABANG "A"	1,720,000
BAGUIO CC	750,000	BAGUIO CC	800,000
CANLUBANG	850,000	CANLUBANG GC	800,000
CC @ TAGAYTAY	450,000	CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
MAKATI SPORTS "A"/"B"	.43M/.45M	EAGLERIDGE "C"	400,000
MANILA GOLF (INDV.)	14,500,000	MAKATI SPORTS "A"	375,000
MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	17,500,000	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	850,000	MT. MALARAYAT "C"	Call now
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,300,000	PUNTA FUEGO	Call now
MIMOSA (CORP.)	390,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	220,000
ORCHARD "A"/"C"	.28M/.55M	STA. ELENA "B"	2,200,000
RIVIERA "A" / "B"	0.225M/0.400M	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	Call now
STA. ELENA "A"	2,000,000	VALLEY GOLF	275,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	830,000	WACK WACK GOLF	Call now
WACK WACK	Call now		

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MANILA GOLF	400,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	35,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	Call now	WACK WACK	90,000

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GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of August 20, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	Please Call	1,900,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	-	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	125,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	400,000
Canlubang	-	800,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	-	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	Please Call
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	100,000	110,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	400,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	350,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	350,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	17,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	14,000,000
Manila Polo	3,300,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	800,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	850,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	170,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Corporate)	-	350,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Mt. Malarayat	300,000	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	-	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	450,000
Philippine Columbian	-	85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	170,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	230,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	200,000
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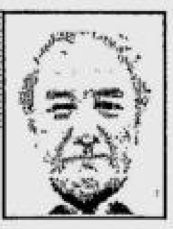
Insurance monopoly in the making

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



AN INSURANCE monopoly is being hatched and, as usual, the Filipino people will get screwed.

Since 1975, as a requirement to vehicle registration, every owner files with the Land Transportation Office (LTO) a so-called Certificate of Cover (COC) that details the Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) Insurance Policy on the vehicle. The COC protects the vehicle owner from financial pain if he hurts someone with his car. But the insurance companies felt that public utility vehicles were extremely risky and the CTPL business on them would be unprofitable. Since no vehicle owner could be refused a COC, the big companies were afraid this unprofitable business would gravitate to them.

Thus, the law required that the entire compulsory CTPL business—good and bad—would be shared equally by all the companies. The Philippine Motor Vehicle Liability Pool was born. Each company wrote whatever business came its way. The premiums and the claims were sent to the Pool, which, in turn, distributed them equally to the members. In effect, the Pool acted as a clearinghouse for premiums and claims.

In a few years, the Pool was bankrupt under a flood of fraudulent claims. The companies left holding the bag eventually had to write off the losses. After the Pool was disbanded, each company was allowed to write COCs and pay claims on its own.

Most fleet operators and private car owners buy their COCs through agents and brokers who also handled the client's other insurance needs. If the vehicle is bought on time, the dealer captures the insurance including the COC. If there is an inhouse agency or broker, this takes care of all COC requirements of the business group. These channels account for at least 85 percent of COC business.

The 15-percent balance—small bus, taxi, truck, jeepney or tricycle operators—buy their COCs from agents who hold office in the vicinity of an LTO branch. Sometimes, inside the grounds of the LTO branch, you see the booths from which you can buy a COC. There are talks that LTO employees are involved.

The COCs issued around an LTO branch are the problem. This business is not reported to the Insurance Commission depriving the government of taxes. Worse, if there is a claim, the owner finds that the COC is not worth the paper it is written on.

To solve the problem, LTO is spearheading a move to computerize the whole process of issuing COCs nationwide. The plan is to have all COCs, including those of the authentic 85 percent serviced by legitimate agents and brokers, issued exclusively by a little known computer software firm called D Tech Management, LTO's lucky choice. LTO, D Tech, the Insurance and Surety Association and the Insurance Commission have signed the memorandum of agreement.

The consortium of insurance companies is being put together. D Tech will get the unheard of commission, sorry, service fee of—are you ready?—40 percent. (All these years, agent's and broker's commission has been 10 percent). Ten percent is profit (nobody in the insurance industry is guaranteed a profit). Thirty percent is for the cost of setting up the computer network nationwide. But if the vehicle owners are to pay for the cost of the network, will they own it? If D Tech will own it, why shouldn't they pay for it? Besides, after the network has been set up and fully paid for, will D Tech continue to collect the 30 percent from vehicle owners. If so, where will it go? You figure it out.

The legitimate agents and brokers contend that if the companies can afford to pay 40 percent commission, they should instead reduce the premiums.

Also, the monopoly puts the vehicle owner at a severe disadvantage. He will have to cut his longstanding connection with his preferred agent or broker and deal with D Tech, and D Tech alone. If he is unhappy with D Tech, he has nowhere else to go.

How serious is the problem of fake COCs issued by syndicates in the vicinity of LTO branches? It is claimed that fake COCs cover 2.8 million vehicles, fully 75 percent of total vehicles registered nationwide. This means unreported premiums of about P1.8 billion and a tax loss of about P400 million.

These figures are gross exaggeration. From the Insurance Commission's 1999 report, I estimate there are only 500,000 COCs unreported. This means premiums of P200 million and a tax loss of P45 million. No small potatoes, but nowhere near the huge problem that has been put forward.

Above all, an illegal monopoly cannot be set up to solve an illegal problem.

The legitimate agents and brokers are up in arms. The battle lines are being drawn.

Loan growth slowed down to 4% in June

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GROWTH of the loan portfolio of the country's 45 operating commercial banks slowed down from 5 percent in May to 4 percent in June, equivalent to outstanding loans of P1.43 trillion.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data showed that the growth in bank lending also tapered off from a peak of 6.2 percent in April following a surge loan extension to the manufacturing sectors that started in February.

The increases in loans extended to the manufacturing sector slid back to single-digit levels after hitting 10.5 percent in April. Still, the BSP said more than half of banks' total loan portfolio or P766 billion went to this sector, together with the financial and real estate groups.

At the same time, the BSP data showed that net domestic credits, consisting of all borrowings from the local system, grew by only 5.6 percent in June, lower than the 6.9 percent improvement registered in the previous month.

The growth in credit extended to the public sector of 12.1 percent outpaced the 3-percent growth in private sector borrowings during the period.

The growth in the borrowings of both sectors was lower from the previous month's 12.2 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively.

As the lending activity in the banking sector slowed down in June, the growth in domestic liquidity also dropped to 13 percent from 14.7-percent growth in May.

In the meantime, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura earlier said local monetary authorities were open to further increasing the mandatory reserve requirement on banks if the economy will continue to slow down in the coming months. The BSP increased the reserve requirements on bank by a total of 4 percentage points in July and August.

With the increases in the reserve requirement in July and August, the central bank said it was able to siphon off almost P55 billion in excess money from the system that monetary authorities believed were being used to speculate against the peso.

The central bank said the slowdown in the banks' lending in June followed a slowdown in economic activities during the period.

The BSP pointed out that the volume of production index or Vopi and the Value of Production Index of Vapi in key manufacturing industries posted a measly 2-percent and 8-percent growth, respetively, in May from 13.3 percent and 21.5 percent in the previous month.

At the same time, power sales of the Manila Electric Co. grew by only 3.3 percent in June from 5.2 percent in May.

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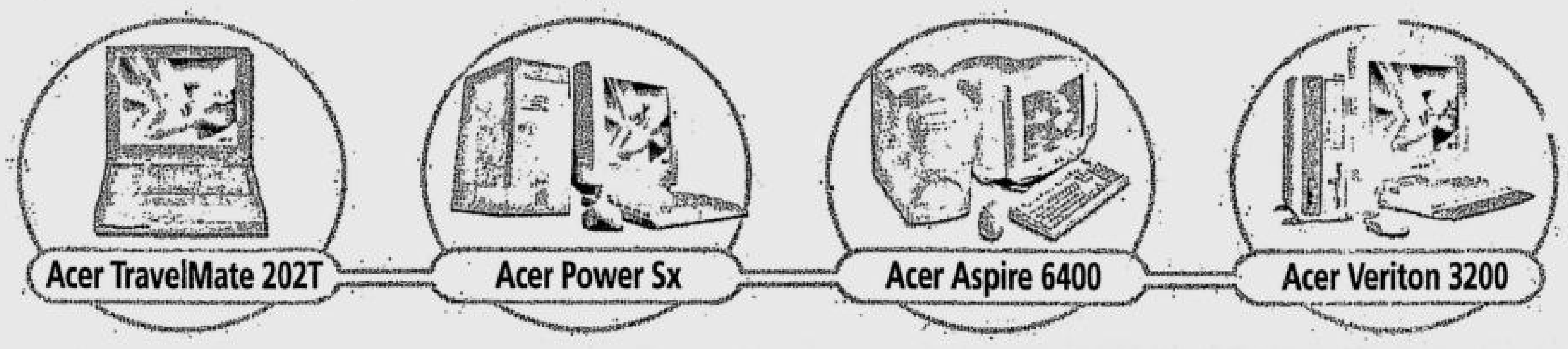

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P6.6-B BULK WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Italian firm, 16 others keen on MWSS project

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

WTD Trattamento Acque s.r.l. of Italy, one of the world's leading water treatment company, expressed an interest on the P6.6-billion Laguna Lake Bulk Water Supply project, which will be auctioned off by state-controlled Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System this year.

In an interview, Mark Castro, EVP of Euro-Asia Environmental System, WTD's representative company in the Philippines, said the Italian group was willing to invest up to $1 billion in different projects in the Philippines.

About 17 companies have expressed plans to participate in the bidding for the 25-year build-operate-transfer water treatment project covering Laguna Lake. However, the MWSS said it would trim down the list to only six soon.

"We are focusing on the Laguna Lake project is that because we know that the project is feasible. We have done similar projects in many other countries," Castro said.

Castro said that WTD has expertise not only in building the infrastructure for the water supply system but also in the chemical technology needed to cleanse the water system. The company is also known for its desalination technique, involving the use of reverse osmosis to purify water.

He said Euro-Asia's tie-up with WTD was in response to the Philippine government's initiative to implement nationwide BOT projects.

Aside from acting as its representative office in the Philippines, Euro-Asia was also mandated by WTD as its agent in other target countries like Jordan and Greece.

Castro said the WTD-Euro-Asia tie-up would also look at other projects in the country aside from the MWSS Laguna Lake project.

"The $1-billion budget is just the initial investment budget depending on the opportunities in the country," Castro said.

Castro said WTD should have an edge against other foreign groups keen on the Laguna Lake project because of its track record in operating water supply systems around the world.

US-based Bechtel Corp. is seen to be WTD's strongest competitor for the Laguna Lake project. Bechtel also provides engineering, construction and project management services for all aspects of water and wastewater work, from engineering, procurement and construction of individual plants, to the management of entire projects.

Like WTD, Bechtel Water creates and builds water solutions globally for a variety of customers, with world-class project management, innovative engineering, procurement and construction practices. Bechtel, in partnership with Edison S.p.a., also pursues privatized water and wastewater projects and concessions.

UPS TO ESTABLISH HUB IN CLARK

UNITED parcel service chair James Kelly listens intently to Clark Development Corp. (CDC) president Emmanuel Angeles as he speaks about the prospects of Clark International Airport. UPS, which announced its intention to establish an intra-Asia hub in Clark on April 5, has reiterated its intention to locate in the Philippines. UPS is the world's largest parcel delivery service company, serving over 200 countries and territories all over the world.

Metrobank seen raising PSB stake

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest bank, is considering raising its stake in thrift bank unit Philippine Savings Bank up to 100 percent from the existing level of 64 percent.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Metrobank said its board had given bank president Antonio Abacan the authority to purchase additional shares of PS Bank at a volume, price, terms and conditions that he believed would serve the best interest of the universal bank.

A Metrobank official said the move was designed to give Metrobank the flexibility to accumulate additional shares of PS Bank whenever the latter's share price would drop to 'attractive' levels.

PS Bank last week reported that its net income for the first six months of the year rose 73 percent to P78.5 million from the previous year's level.

PS Bank recently acquired 13 former branches of Global Business Bank.

Also, the Metrobank board has given its go-ahead signal for the acquisition of another 1.8 million shares of SMBC Metro Investment Corp., also at terms and conditions that Abacan may saw fit. The additional shares translated to a 30-percent stake in the investment house.

SMBC, formerly known as Sumigin Metro Investment Corp., is a joint venture between Metrobank and Sumitomo Bank of Japan.

SMBC registered a net income of P52 million in 2000, representing a 34-percent growth over the previous year's level. As of end-2000, its gross loan portfolio was P225 million while total resources reached P801 million.

Gov't steps up drive against erring LPG industry players

THE DEPARTMENTS of Energy, and Interior and Local Government have signed an agreement that would ensure the strict implementation of the rules governing the LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) sector and the imposition of penalties on violators.

The Revised Schedule of Penalties in the LPG Industry of 2000 (DoE Department Circular No. 2000-06-010) provides a new set of penalties for various offenses committed in the industry. The heaviest penalty that the DoE can impose is to recommend to the appropriate local government unit the closure of the erring establishments.

To carry this out, however, the DoE would need the assistance of the DILG since it was tasked to coordinate the cooperation between all local government units (LGUs) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), who has the sole authority to apprehend individuals, in cases that call for it.

Under the MoA, the DILG has agreed "to be an indispensable program partner of the DoE" in the public service mission of "cleaning up and getting rid of irregular, deceitful and anomalous trade practices in the industry."

The DILG will also extend all necessary assistance to the DoE in implementing the DoE and DILG Dept. Circular No. 2000-06-010, including the dissemination of information to local government units (LGUs).

According to the MoA, the DILG will meet this objective by issuing out the appropriate memorandum to all LGUs and the Philippine National Police (PNP) regarding an orderly and effective implementation of decisions, resolutions and orders issued by the DoE.

For its part, the DoE, through its Energy Industry Administration Bureau (EIAB), will inform the DILG of relevant decisions and actions it has made in imposing sanctions outlined in the DoE department circular.

The DoE is required to submit a comprehensive, quarterly report to the DILG, informing it of such decisions.

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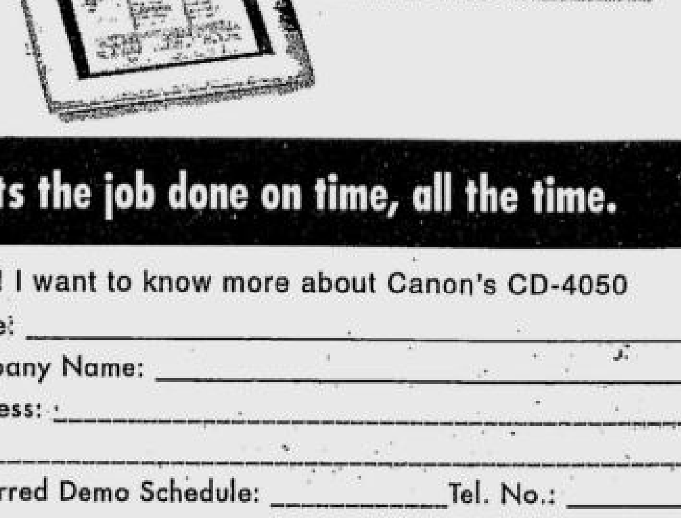

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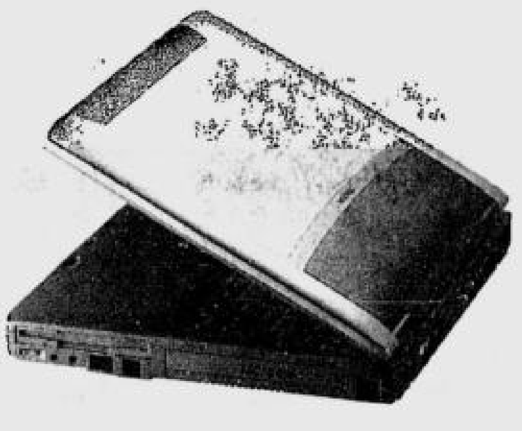

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Top gov't tax collector says BIR to hit yearend target

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has expressed confidence it will be able to collect over P388 billion worth of taxes this year, although it is already running P13.3 billion short its target.

BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez said the BIR's continuing reform measures should help it meet its target this year, which has already been scaled down by 5 percent from the original P408 billion.

"We are confident that we will exceed last year's level and we are very hopeful that we will meet our target this year," said Bañez.

The BIR chief met on Friday with representatives of the movie and television industry who objected to a planned increase in the withholding taxes of entertainers and professional athletes to 20 percent from 10 percent of their salaries.

In the first seven months of the year, the BIR collected only P229.676 billion compared with a target of P242.991 billion. To meet its target, the agency would have to collect at least P158.3 billion from this month to December, traditionally a lean tax-collection season.

"The target was reduced by the economic team by P20 billion not because we asked for it but because of the Development Budget Coordinating Council's review of the economy's performance," Bañez told reporters.

The interagency DBCC brought down the country's economic growth target to 3.3 to 3.8 percent from an earlier estimate of 3.8 to 4.3 percent.

The P20-billion cut in the BIR's full-year target would be offset by an expected P4-billion surplus from the Bureau of Treasury, an additional P3 billion in privatization proceeds from an original target of P7 billion, a P2-billion surplus in fees and charges and P1 billion in foreign grants.

Also, savings estimated at P18 billion would be booked as earnings.

The BIR is hoping to augment its collections from the higher withholding tax on entertainers and professional athletes.

"We are also set to implement other measures, like the net-operating-loss-carry-over and other abatement measures that can lead to a higher collection," Bañez said.

He also expressed confidence that the government would be able to keep its budget deficit this year to below P145 billion.

The budget deficit from January to July—P82.6 billion—was 11 percent below an expected P93.6 billion.

In July, the deficit grew by only P4.8 billion against a projected P13 billion, as government revenues of P54 billion surpassed expectations by P3 billion. The state spent some P59 billion during the month, P5 billion below expectations.

Napocor's profitability improves in first half

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp.'s return on rate base jumped to 4.99 percent in the first five months of 2001 compared to the year-ago figure of 1.58 percent, Energy Secretary Vicente S. Perez announced yesterday.

The RORB is a measure of a company's profitability.

Perez said the rise in Napocor's RORB was due to the significant reduction of its losses in January to May by 69.3 percent to P1.93 billion compared with P6.29 billion in the same period last year.

According to a Napocor document, the improvement was due to a higher-than-expected sales volume and improved operating ratio (operating expenses to net utility revenue).

Also, the World Bank has agreed in June to scrap the 8-percent RORB requirement on its loan covenant, the document showed.

During the period under review, the power firm's regular sales increased by 5.4 percent while its one-day power sales went up by 92.2 percent.

Its operating ratio registered at 90 percent compared to 96 percent in 2000.

However, the lower operating ratio was offset by a P496-million increase in interest expense due to high foreign exchange rate levels during the period.

The foreign exchange rate reached a high of P49.66 to the dollar in May compared to P40 to the dollar last year.

In a separate statement, Napocor said its energy sales grew by 6.5 percent to 18,639 gigawatt-hours in the first semester of 2001 from 17,502 gwh in the same period last year.

Credit removal reviewed

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is reviewing plans to eliminate direct credit programs to the agriculture sector.

As the sudden removal of direct loans to the agriculture sector also has an impact on agriculture production, the agriculture department is reviewing the possibility of delaying its implementation scheduled on February 2002.

Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano said the removal of direct credit for the agriculture sector was being reviewed, especially now that the alternative credit sources had yet to be put in place.

Serrano said the agriculture department was preparing safety nets to cushion the impact of removing direct credit programs for small farmers' groups and cooperatives.

He said credit was just one of the determinants of agricultural production, apart from irrigation, technology and inputs.

Among the safety nets created by the department is the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Guarantee Funds, which will have P58 million in initial funding, a P350-million rediscounting facility for rural borrowers from Land Bank of the Philippines, and the P124-million wholesale guarantee facility of the Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp.

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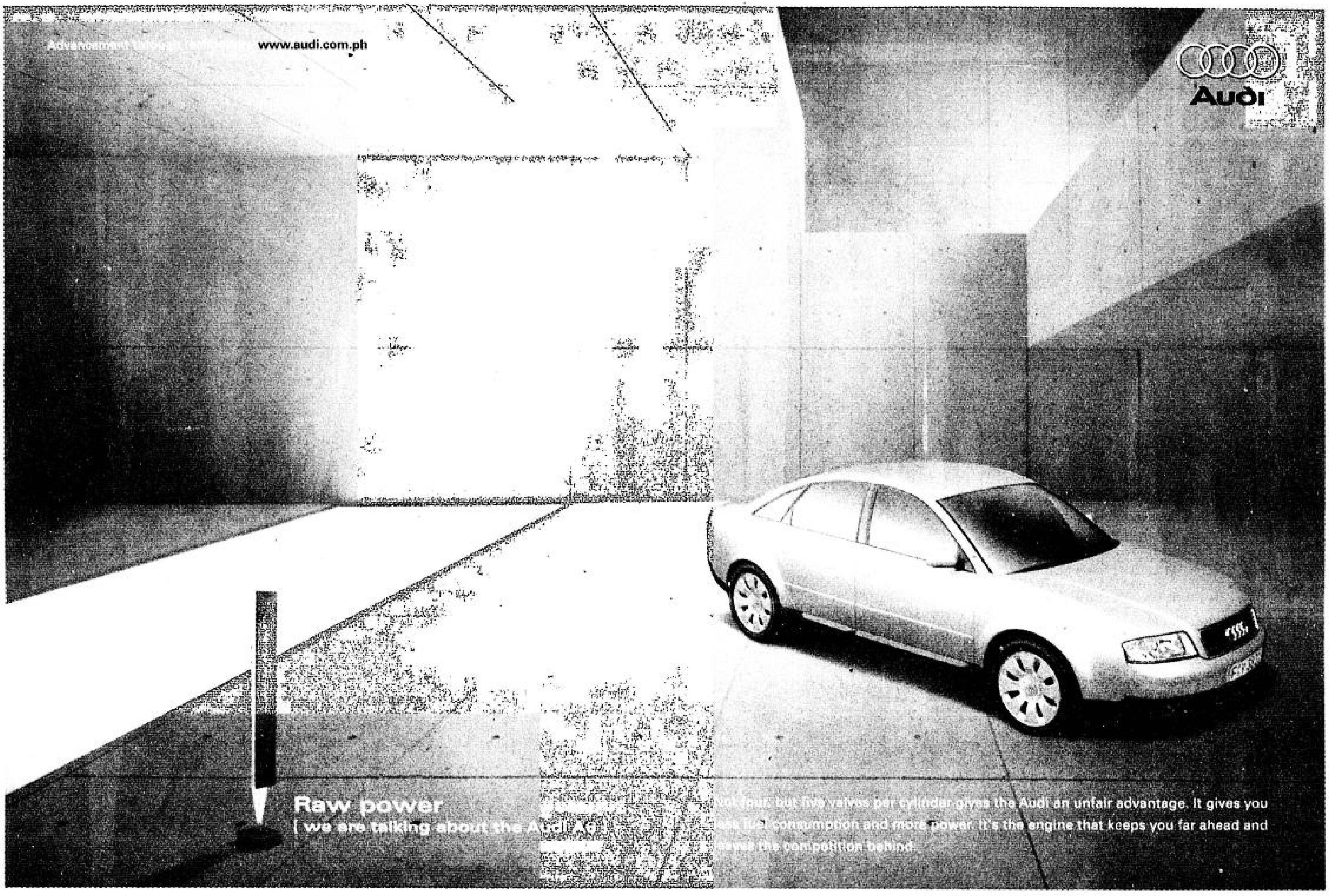
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•Ofc Staff•9168033 Alyssa

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LEGAL NOTICE

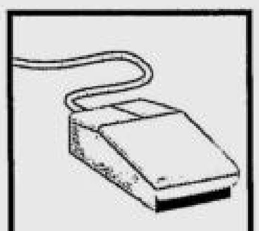
Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CLARITA TALLA was extra-judicially settled among heirs per Doc. No. 1185; Page No. 11; Book No. 36; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Danilo B. Banares of Makati City (PDI-Aug. 6, 13 & 20,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver executed by the heirs of ISABELO P. VIDAL on 7/28 /01 before notary public Atty.Luis S. Salas of Pasay City per Doc. No. 289; Page No. 58; Book No. 1; Series of 2001
PDI-Aug. 6, 13 & 20, 2001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Cesar M. Espinosa has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. 273 Page 56 Book XXXIX Series 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Isabelo C. Salamida of Tarlac City
[PDI-August 6,13&20,2001]

NOTICE OF LOSS

To whom it may concern: Be it known that S2ID#14461 R01-12 of Dr. R.V. Cabio has been stolen on July 15, 2001.



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☎ 5219421*5219463*5226632*5227531*5227529*5227533
*5227528*5244189*5244203*5244205*5244184
Fax No. 5219466

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND SUBMIT PROPOSALS

The Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC) invites interested parties in the harvesting/extraction by way of sanitation cutting of all standing dead and diseased falcata trees to pre-qualify and submit proposals for the 8.47 hectare plantation area with an estimated total volume of 500.51 cubic meters located at Cayamcam, Tungawan, Zamboanga del Sur. Interested parties are required to submit the following requirements at the NRDC, 9/F 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila:

1. Certified copy of the Certificate of Registration of Business Name with Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or Certificate of Registration with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC);
2. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws or Articles of Co-partnership;
3. List of Names of Current Stockholders/Partners and Directors of the Corporation/Partnership as certified by the Corporate and/or Board Secretary;
4. A valid Wood Processing Plant Permit and/or Log Dealer's Permit and Log Supply Agreement;
5. Duly notarized Board Resolution as duly certified by the Corporate Secretary authorizing the official representative(s) of the Company to transact business in behalf of the Company;
6. Duly Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years; and
7. List of subsidiaries and sister companies as duly notarized and certified by the Corporate Board Secretary.

Deadline for the submission of the above pre-qualification requirements shall be at the close of office hours on **August 28, 2001**.

Bidders shall be notified on the results of the pre-qualification evaluation after which they shall be provided with project prospectus on the technical details in the preparation of Technical and Financial Proposal including the indicative Plan. The project prospectus, rules on bidding procedures and other pertinent information shall be acquired by pre-qualified applicants upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable application fee.

Pre-qualified applicants must be able to prove their track record of experience, technical and financial capability to perform the works/services called for. The deadline for the submission of the Technical and Financial Proposal shall be at the close of office hours on **September 6, 2001**. Pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on **September 13, 2001**, 10:00 AM at the NRDC Conference Room.

Qualified bidders must submit their sealed bids on or before the Opening of Bid on **September 14, 2001**, 10:00 AM, same venue.

Automatic rebidding will be conducted on **September 20, 2001** in case of failure in bidding due to insufficient number of participating bidders, non-complying bids, etc.

For further clarification, interested parties may inquire at the NRDC Office through telephone numbers 521-9421, 521-9463, 522-6632, 522-7531 and 522-7529.

The NRDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any formalities in connection thereto and accept such bids it may consider as most advantageous to the Corporation.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. DIOGENES S. FERREZ**
BAC Chairman

(PDI -- Aug. 18, 19 & 20, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PATUBIG
(NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION)
TANGGAPAN NG REHIYONAL NA PATNUGOT NG PATUBIG
REHIYON BLG. 6, LUNGSOD NG ILOILO

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATIONS AND TO SUBMIT BIDS
CONSTRUCTION OF DIVERSION WORKS OF MAAYON CIP

Maayon, Capiz
Contract No. El Niño R6-C-4

The National Irrigation Administration, Regional Office 6, Iloilo City is inviting qualified contractors who are registered and classified by the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines and the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board preferably based in Iloilo and Capiz to prequalify and to submit bids for the Construction of Diversion Works of Maayon CIP, Maayon, Capiz.

The Proposed Scope of Work shall involved but shall not be limited to the following:

	Items of Work	Estimated Quantity	Unit		Items of Work	Estimated Quantity	Unit
1.	Temp. works & Mob. of Constn. of Equipt.	L.S.		6.	Filter Drain	8	Cu.m.
2.	Diversion & Care of River	L.S.		7.	Rock Excavation (Mech)	850	Cu.m.
3.	211 KGSM Reinf. Concrete	865	Cu.m.	8.	Structure Excavation (Mech)	28,500	Cu.m.
4.	Rubble Masonry w/ 169 Concrete Binder	2,530	Cu.m.	9.	Structure Backfill (Mech)	22,870	Cu.m.
5.	Reinf. Steel Bars			10.	5cm dia x 6m G.I. Pipe	L.S.	
	5a. Cutting Bending, Placing & etc.	29,900	Kgs.	11.	Steelgate	2	Units
	5b. Furnishing & Stockpiling	29,900	Kgs.				

Estimated Budget for the project = P21.0M
Estimated Contract Duration = 600 Calendar Days

Requirements for prequalifications are as follows:
1. IAC Category = Medium "B" for Irrigation and Flood Control
2. Credit Line = Ten percent (10%) of the Estimated Project Cost
Prospective Bidders are required to use NIA supplied forms.
All other forms will not be accepted and will be rejected outright
3. Proof of ownership for the minimum equipment requirement
4. Other requirements that maybe made by the NIA-PBAC in conformity with the latest amendments of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of PD 1594, as amended and NIA MC #21, series 1997, guidelines in the Implementation of Local Minor Contract.

The minimum equipment requirement which must be owned are as follows:

	TYPE OF EQUIPT.	CAPACITY	NUMBER		TYPE OF EQUIPT.	CAPACITY	NUMBER
1.	Dump Truck	6-8 Cu.m.	3	5.	Concrete Mixer	1 bagger	4
2.	Bulldozer	85-114 HP	1	6.	Concrete Vibrator	3-5 Hp	2
3.	Loader	180-200 HP	1	7.	Water pump	100 mm dia	4
4.	Backhoe (Hydraulic Excavator)	0.35-0.45 Cu.m.	1				

Pre C Forms shall be made available to eligible and interested contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P350.00 and upon submittal of a Letter of Intent addressed to:

The Chairman
Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee
National Irrigation Administration, Regional Office 6
Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City

Relevant and tentative schedule for the conduct of this bidding are as follows:
Issuance of Pre-C Documents = August 8 to 24, 2001
Deadline of Submission of duly accomplished PRE-C Documents = August 28, 2001
Pre-Bidding conference = September 13, 2001 Regional Office Conference Room, 9:00 a.m.
Issuance of Plans and Bid Documents = September 14, 2001 (Cost of P500.00/set, non-refundable)
Opening of Bids = September 26, 2001 Regional Office Conference Room, 9:00 a.m. (Dropping of Bids will be from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. at the same time and place)

Site inspection maybe arranged with the Provincial Irrigation Officer of Capiz, PIO, Mambusao, Capiz anytime but preferably before the pre-bidding.

Prospective contractors are likewise required to attend the Pre-bidding conference as compulsory requirements and non-refundable means outright disqualification from participating on this bidding.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or infirmities therein, or accept the bids most advantageous to the Agency.

Finally, the NIA assumes no obligation or responsibility in whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense, or loss that may be incurred in connection with this bidding.

(Sgd.) **ARSENIO C. SALANIO**
PBAC, Chairman

NOTED:
(Sgd.) **FELIX R. FRANCISCO**
OIC-Regional Manager

(PDI - Aug. 20 & 21, 2001)

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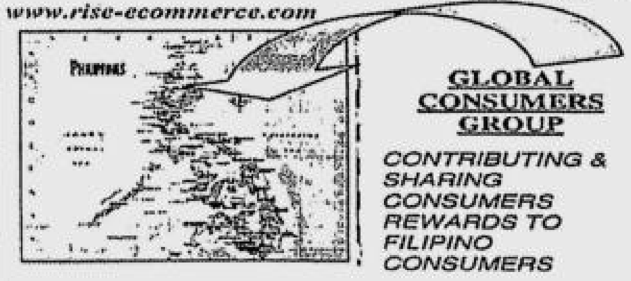

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/821-4764 / Telefax # (02) 821-1155
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INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports is inviting all manufacturers of Albendazole for the bidding of 300,000 Tablets of Albendazole (generic 400 mg/tablet) for the deworming of pre-elementary and selected Grade I pupils who will be beneficiaries of the supplementary feeding program during school year 2001-2002 under the Health and Nutrition Center Deworming Project. The approve budget for the project is P 2,700,000.00.

All interested manufacturers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **August 20 to 30, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at ***http://www.decs.gov.ph***.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **Sept. 04, 2001**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **September 11, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI -- Aug. 19 & 20, 2001)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5279

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation invites eligible suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

120,000 Meters - Aluminum Conductor Cable
Under FGJ 11212

This invitation is open to all prequalified suppliers of PNOC-Energy Development Corporation. Interested suppliers not prequalified with PNOC-Energy Group of Companies as of this invitation are required to submit prequalification documents for our future requirements.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Mr. Luis Alejandro L. Joson starting **August 9, 2001** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per document.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security to be issued by the local agent/distributor, if any, with the amount indicated in the tender document, in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC and must be delivered to the above office on or before 2:00 p.m. of **September 3, 2001**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) **SERGIO ANTONIO F. APOSTOL**
Chairman/President/C.E.O.

(PDI - Aug. 20, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries And Aquatic Resources
Regional Fisheries Office No. 1
Flores Building, Pagdalagan Norte,
San Fernando City, La Union
Telefax: (072) 242-1559, Tel. Nos. (072) 242-6112, 700-4127

RE-INVITATION FOR NGOs TO PRE-QUALIFY

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Fisheries Office No. 1 reinvites Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to pre-qualify and to bid for services to implement community organizing work in Aringay and Agoo, La Union under the Income Diversification Component of the Fisheries Resource Management Project (FRMP). NGOs that are considered for pre-qualification must have at least five (5) years relevant experience on community organizing for Coastal Resource Management and Livelihood Development in Northern Luzon.

The general scope of work involves organization work to establish community-based organizations, continuing assistance to the community organizations to build up membership and develop leadership and capability in undertaking Coastal Resource Management and microenterprise activities and assistance in FRMP implementation at local levels.

Among the specific activities to be undertaken by the selected NGOs include:

1) Organization of self-help groups among municipal fisherfolks for engagement in income diversification and microenterprise activities.
2) Preparation and organization of coastal communities to assist the BFAR Regional Offices and the LGUs in the planning, implementation and monitoring of various activities for Coastal Resource Management (CRM), law enforcement and Local Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) and
3) Assistance in the organization and strengthening of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils (FARMC) in the barangay/municipal level.

Copies of the Pre-qualification Statement may be obtained from OIC-ARD EMMA J. MOLINA, Project Coordinator, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Regional Fisheries Office No. 1, 2/F Flores Building, Pagdalagan Norte, San Fernando City, La Union. Deadline for submission of Pre-Qualification documents shall be until 5:00 PM of September 21, 2001.

BFAR reserves the right to reject any or all bids/intents as well as to waive any defect or informality in the submitted bid documents. It also reserves the prerogative to accept any bid it may consider as most responsive and advantageous to government.

(Sgd.) **NESTOR D. DOMENDEN**
Regional Director

(PDI--Aug. 20, 2001)

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Message of Thanks

The bereaved family **Atty. Arsenio Resos & Erlinda, Col. Eduardo Resos & Josie, Lt. Col. Victor Resos (†) & Juliet, Mely R. Fabellar & Gody, Cleofe R. Esquejo & Ernie (†)** and **Police Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr. & Fely** and relatives of the late

Patria Clemente Vda. de Resos

of Poblacion Looc, Romblon

who joined her Creator on August 4, 2001

wish to convey their heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered Masses and prayers, kept vigil, sent flowers, messages of sympathy, paid their last respect & were present in the funeral rites and who in various ways gave them help & comfort at the time of their bereavement.

FRANCISCO H. GUSTILO

Of Manapla, Negros Occidental

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 19, 2001
at the age of 94.

His loving wife **Alice Validor**; children **Pacifico (†) & Corazon, Ma. Luisa, Ma. Daisy, Francisco, Jr. & Bella, Jaime & Laila, Mario & Desiree, Evelyn, Francis & Bing, Tita, Sharon & Larry** and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Therese Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City.

Interment will be at the Court of Everlasting Peace, Manila Memorial Park, after the 9:00 AM Mass at the St. Therese Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Leila Recio Tardif

February 23, 1951 — July 24, 2001

wish to convey our gratitude to all those who shared in our moment of grief.

> **"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, my servant also will be"**
>
> **John 12:16**

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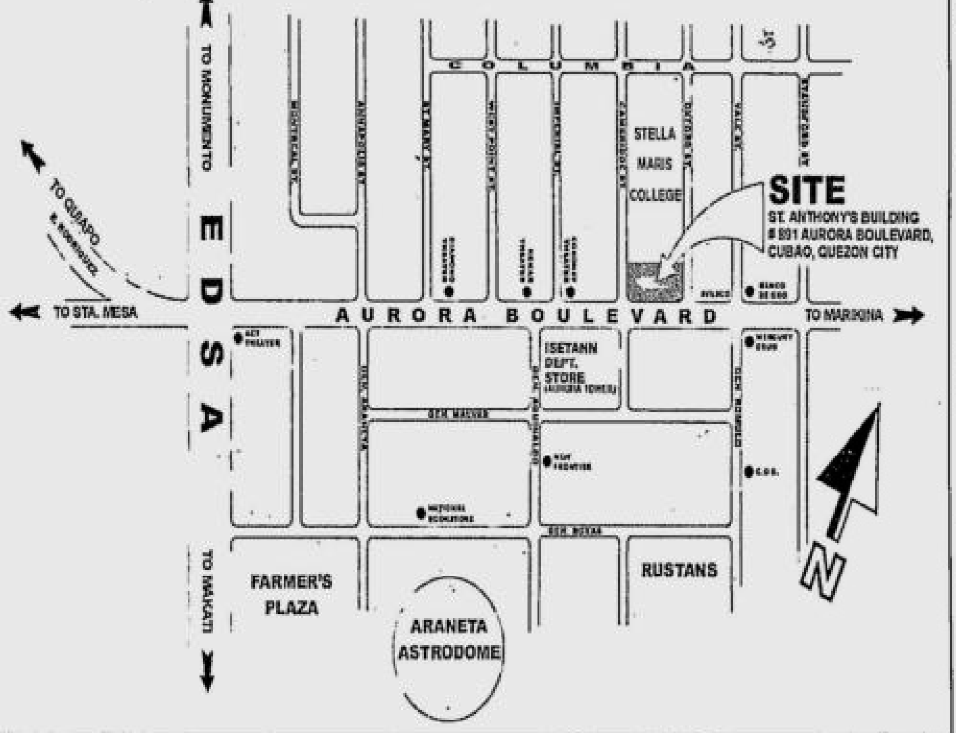

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the ***UPGRADE OF ONE (1) BRITTEN NORMAN ISLANDER-2A FIXED WING AIRCRAFT*** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of ***Twenty Five Million Pesos (Php 25,000,000.00)*** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from entities authorized by the appropriate civil aviation authority which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build, or otherwise product the BN Islander shall be entertained

Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***August 21, 2001*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidders authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***September 4, 2001*** at ***2:00 PM*** *(local time)* at the *Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the BN Islander Aircraft and Naval Air Group facilities upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of the First Stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of Eligibility/Bid Documents (First Stage) is on ***September 26, 2001 at 9:00 AM*** *(local time)* and followed by the Opening of Bids at ***10:00 AM*** at the *Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC) Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

FOR THE CHAIRMAN, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC):

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO H. DE LEON**
Commodore, AFP
Vice-Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Aug. 20 & 21, 2001)

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Alcatel extends its support to the 32nd National Marketing Conference by contributing units of its top-of-the-line One Touch 501 and One Touch 701 mobile phones as raffle prizes for the event. The National Marketing Conference is a major annual event of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) and attracts marketing practitioners from all over the Philippines and other parts of the world. Shown with the Alcatel mobile phones are Alcatel Philippines' mobile phone division country manager Rowen Untivero (left) and PMA president JJ Roces. Both the One Touch 501 and One Touch 701 provide executives and businessmen valuable tools like a built-in organizer, schedule reminder, dictaphone, a cursor-like 5-way drivekey, convenient hands-free functions and other features in a compact and lightweight handset.

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Uncle Sam

Q. How did "Uncle Sam" become the symbolic name of the American nation and people?

A. The man believed to be the original Uncle Sam was Samuel Wilson of Troy, New York. He was a genial, popular meat-packer who stood out in any crowd with his name of gray hair and his high top hat, and was known to everyone as Uncle Sam. Wilson happened to be the nephew of Elbert Anderson, who supplied the army with beef and pork during the War of 1812, packing them in barrels stamped with the initial "E.A.-U.S." (for Elbert Anderson and United States). The story goes that one soldier asked another what the initials "U.S." meant, and his companion jokingly replied that they stood for "Uncle Sam" Cartoonists picked up the idea in the 1830s and soon "Uncle Sam" became associated with the Army and eventually replaced the earlier "Brother Jonathan" as symbolic name of the United States.

For the Record. The United States has had three different names. It was originally known as "The Congress" until the Articles of Confederation was ratified in 1871. Under the articles, the U.S. was officially called "The United States in Congress Assembled." When the present Constitution came into effect in 1879, the country became known as "The United States of America."

Day by Day. In one day 364,321 people are born and 147,137 people die all over the world. So every day there are 217,184 more people on Earth.

WORD WATCH

Mundo : ultimately from the Middle English *mundeyne*, "world".

PDI -- Aug. 20, 2001

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Super East Asia Enterprises Inc., is the Philippine authorized distributor of Canon cameras.

FGU sales competition heats up

FGU Insurance Corp., the non-life insurance and surety arm of the Ayala Group of Companies and the Bank of the Philippine Islands, recently hosted a sales rally that also served to honor the latest members of the Circle of Champions in the Race for Your Rewards program.

Describing FGU's business partners as being in a "competitive mode," FGU president Alfonso L. Salcedo, Jr. says that the Race is starting to heat up. "The fact that we have only three repeat winners and 13 new winners means that our people are trying harder to get ahead and undoubtedly, this lends greater excitement to the Race." For April, the winners were led by Robert Drio, followed by Cindy Gualberto, Joel Rojas, Grace Javelosa and Francisco Ramos.

Race for Your Rewards requires FGU's business partners to match their production last year and remit the premiums to get points which correspond to fabulous prizes like trips to Hong Kong, Singapore, Bali, Indonesia and Thailand as well as to exciting local destinations like Palawan, Davao, Cebu and Boracay. Other prizes include home appliances, furniture and electronic equipment. Additional points are also given for every incremental business that is brought to FGU. The promo runs from March 15 to Aug. 31.

During the event, Salcedo issued a challenge. "I wonder if any of the monthly winners can keep the silver cup for at least two consecutive months?" He adds that right now, "It's anybody's ballgame and winning means our business partners need to quadruple the level of prospecting and cross-selling so we can widen our base."

Aside from Salcedo, FGU senior vice presidents Redentor Magat and Hermenegildo Bereña and March winner Maxima Diaz also attended the activity.

INFOTECH

Leo Magno, Editor

RP 'good market' for i-mode, says DoCoMo exec

By Leo Magno

JAPANESE telecommunications giant NTT DoCoMo Inc. is going global with its wireless Internet phenomenon known as i-mode, and many countries—including the Philippines—could be on Japan's radar screen.

I-mode, NTT DoCoMo's cash cow with 26.2 million subscribers in Japan paying roughly $20 per month, is going global with its 3G-enhanced i-mode version. 3G is the third generation of communications technology which promises more wireless bandwidth, enabling audio, video and Internet traffic to be ported to the cellular phone. Japan is the first country to adopt 3G, and since the same technology is slowly being adopted worldwide, NTT DoCoMo now plans to introduce its 3G i-mode service to other countries outside Japan.

NTT DoCoMo launched in Japan on May 30 the introductory phase of its Foma (Freedom Of Mobile multimedia Access) 3G mobile service for voice and high-speed data communications. Foma is based on W-CDMA (Wideband Code Division Multiple Access).

"The Philippine market is very similar (to that of) Japan," said Takeshi Natsuno, managing director for i-mode strategy at NTT DoCoMo, at a press briefing when he visited Manila.

"You also started with SMS (short message service), so I think you can have a good market for 3G i-mode," he said.

Natsuno revealed that Japan also started with SMS or text messaging, before i-mode was introduced in Japan two-and-a-half years ago.

"We had a big SMS community before, but with i-mode you can send more messages, so the users gradually shifted," he said. "Soon, SMS was eliminated."

The Philippines has often been called the SMS capital of the world, with millions of text messages being sent by Filipinos every day. Another thing going for the country is the introduction of general packet radio system (GPRS)

RP/ p.B16

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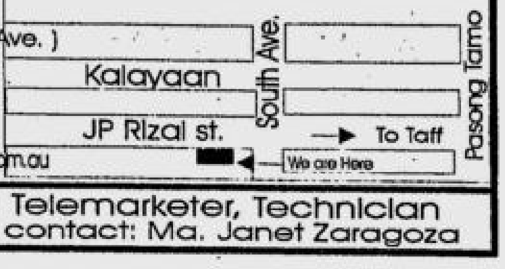

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Bill seeks to check graft in gov't e-procurement

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

A SOLON has filed a bill seeking to punish graft and corruption in government purchases that will increasingly be conducted using Internet technology.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III has addressed the issue of online procurement in the recently filed Senate Bill No. 182. Dubbed as the "Government Procurement Reform Act of 2001," the bill intends to "streamline and standardize" bidding procedures; automate the process of bidding using Internet technology; replace the practice of pre-qualifying bidders with post-qualification; create a Government Procurement Policy Board; and introduce penalties for offenses related to government procurement.

The bill noted that replacing the prequalification of bids with simple eligibility screening and post-qualification, for instance, would cut down the bidding process by three to seven months.

The bill would also allow civil society members to be involved in government procurement procedures.

In a separate interview, Jose Luis Syquia, program director of Procurement Watch Inc., an anti-graft non-government organization, said that the procurement bill is expected to consolidate existing laws governing public procurement. He cited Executive Order 262 and the revised implementing rules and regulations of Presidential Decree 1594 as the laws that will be consolidated.

OSMEÑA

He said that numerous laws governing public procurement have confused government agencies.

"The Commission on Elections is not fully complying with EO 262, which requires government agencies to course procurement of commonly used supplies to the Department of Budget and Management Procurement Service," Syquia said.

Osmeña cited a World Bank report quoting the Ombudsman as saying that over the last 20 years, about $48 million has been lost to corruption.

"Graft and corruption in government is an important policy issue in the light of the ballooning fiscal deficit of government, and of findings that one of the major causes of persisting poverty among developing countries is the gross wastage of resources," Osmeña added.

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Storage companies engage in word war

STORAGE solutions provider EMC Corp. questioned a survey released by Hitachi Data Systems (HDS) in a recent press briefing, showing that the latter scored higher than EMC in "customer satisfaction."

"The survey involved only 64 respondents. From a statistical standpoint, the survey does not hold water," Ronnie Latinazo, country manager of EMC Philippines, said in an interview.

Latinazo said that the survey conducted by Wit SoundView Corp. dated July 27, 2001, lacked "credibility" because it was allegedly paid for by HDS.

In a separate telephone interview, Tom Zack, HDS vice president of product marketing and management for Canada, Asia Pacific and Latin America, said that HDS did not commission the survey.

"It is very disturbing for EMC to make such a statement," Zack told the INQUIRER, adding that Wit SoundView is among the most respected Wall Street financial services company. "I find it a shame that EMC would stoop so low."

In the Wit SoundView survey presented during a Gartner conference, HDS scored higher than competitors, including EMC, on customer satisfaction based on various categories such as disaster recovery, multi-platform connectivity and interoperability testing.

Latinazo, however, pointed out that survey's claims are questionable, and are "inconsistent" with independent surveys done by industry authorities.

He also argued that the survey's conclusion was "largely based on price issues."

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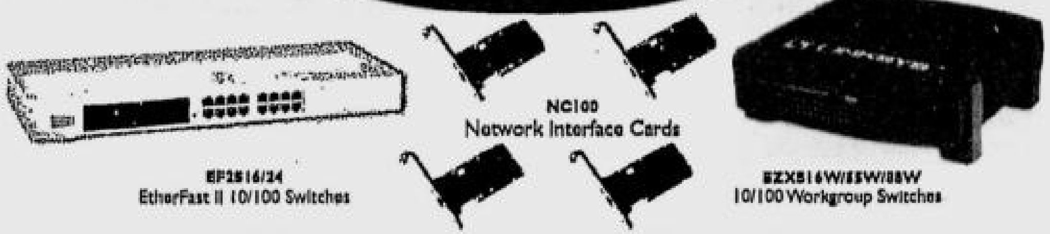

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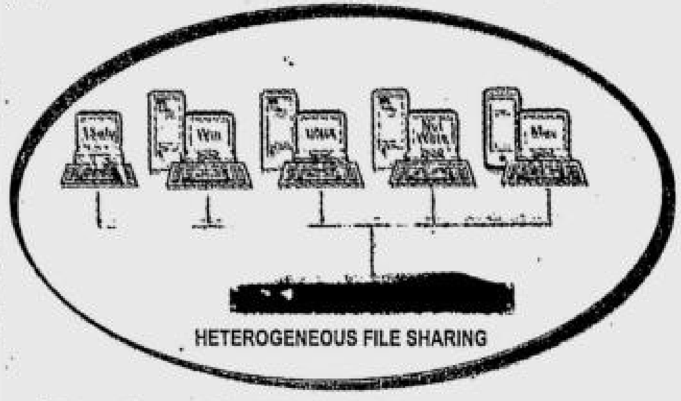

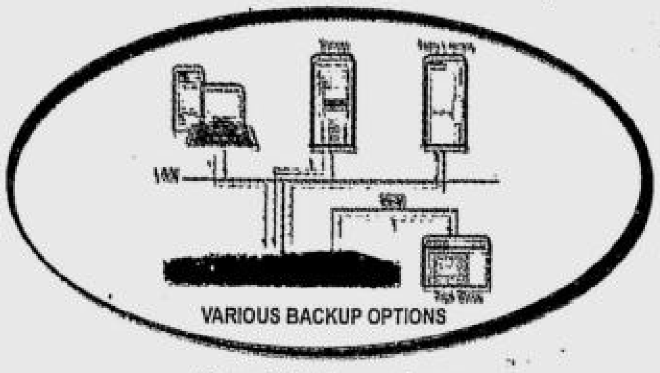

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According to Mr. Paquito Frades, Resident Manager, "When we implemented the system we actually started from square one, considering that all we had then were manuals and logbooks." However, the coordination between LSC core group and Questronix Corporation Vismin - MAXIMO Team made it easier for everyone to fast track the implementation. But once all were set in place, it was not hard for the new system to fit the standards of the engineers and eventually use it with ease.

MAXIMO fits perfectly with LSC's business improvement strategy

LSC installed the proven client/server based asset maintenance software called MAXIMO from MRO Software, Inc. (formerly known as Project Software and Development, Inc. [PSDI] and went live on May 1999, "MAXIMO" says Juan Bolaños, EDP Head, "has all the required elements to produce major savings from better control of assets and the lowering of maintenance costs. LSC Implementation Team, with the services of consultants, implemented the system within 3 months. From a basic infrastructure, we have constructed a LAN across the plant as seeing a great advantage in connecting all departments running MAXIMO and other company information systems."

So, how did MAXIMO address the pains in LSC's maintenance area? "With MAXIMO, we can easily pinpoint those troublesome equipment, therefore, it comes easier for us to focus our efforts and thus increasing our production."

MAXIMO – Linking with existing systems

LSC has linked MAXIMO to the plant's existing Great Plains Dynamics' (GPS) Purchasing and Financial Systems.

For the Purchasing System link-up, MAXIMO Purchasing cycle is utilized from the purchase request→ purchase order → receipts → up to invoicing process. The approved invoices are then posted to GPS via the integration program.

"With MAXIMO, we can easily pinpoint those troublesome equipment, therefore it comes easier for us to focus our efforts and increase our production."

For the Financial System link-up, MAXIMO keeps a mirror copy of the GPS Chart of Accounts that will be used for the transactions. Via the integration programs, any changes made in the GPS Chart of Accounts will automatically be reflected in MAXIMO's Chart of Accounts.

MAXIMO helps LSC reduce spare parts inventory

Another area where MAXIMO has had great impact is in the spare parts. Using the historical picture of plant spare parts requirement, LSC will be able to plan exactly what their requirement for spare parts should be, thus reducing spare parts holding costs without exposing the plant to long downtimes because certain spare parts are not available.

Eventually, LSC will have all procedures and operation, job plans, materials tools, labor requirements and stores integrated onto MAXIMO. Already, MAXIMO is having an impact on plant efficiency and operating costs. Says Senen Soberano, Inventory Dept., "We have faster release of items now for whatever items we need we can easily access the records in the system in no time. Taking for example, if I want to keep track of the inventory level (total cost), it's now possible to extract the data easily unlike before were we manually go through so many equipment parts, and that alone takes time."

"We found out that we have a very high inventory level, and when we started doing something about it using MAXIMO we have straightened things up. Before we kept on ordering items thinking that we have ran out of it, when in fact we still have stocks available. Confidently now we can say we have an accurate data of items in our 'bodega.'" The department can also readily generate reports prior to off-season. They just display the data needed and distribute it to the supervisors in an instant. "History data are also immediately available unlike before when we rely on the logbook.

Employees trained to use MAXIMO on the shop floor

LSC staff and management are enthusiastically supporting the new MAXIMO system. LSC has already trained more than 30 staff and MAXIMO is now being used on the plant floor. Using a very simple point and click selection menu, any staff member can go to the MAXIMO terminal, click on the equipment name, and log a problem that has been identified. This then becomes an immediate work request. In addition, MAXIMO can match the maintenance staff with the appropriate skills required to fix the problem and tell the maintenance team what tools and spare parts are required.

MAXIMO has also been used to analyze the procedures maintenance staff perform in the servicing of the equipment. In many cases, it has found that many functions are superfluous.

MAXIMO can thus be used to streamline this aspect of maintenance and schedule tasks that add value rather than tasks that simply take up time.

LSC satisfaction with MAXIMO

According to Jun Bolaños, "MAXIMO is a really good system with features that can help you keep track of alternate and substitute items. The unique Asset Catalog feature that helps us keep track of our increasingly complex list of assets is really helpful." Asset Catalog allows you to structure your assets in organized hierarchies so that items, locations, and equipment can be easily located and its records are not duplicated.

"We have dramatically minimized our downtime (breakdown maintenance) and eliminated unused items or equipment. And MAXIMO's generation of Preventive Maintenance work orders made our work easier. That is something we are grateful for," says Agustin Zaragoza of PMI Dept.

For more information, please contact Questronix Corporation VisMin, telefax (032) 2315942, and tel. nos. (032) 232-4961 to 62, or email us at: joanne_abamonga@questronix.com.ph. You may also visit www.questronix.com.ph

PAID AD

Old business gives way to new group revenue mix of PLDT for 2001

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE REVENUE landscape of stock market blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) is changing fast, with the old business giving way to the new.

PLDT reported a consolidated net income of P1.4 billion in January-June on consolidated gross revenues of P36.7 billion.

International long distance (ILD) calls, which accounted for nearly 70 percent of total revenues five or six years ago, went down to 22.6 percent of consolidated gross revenues in the first half of last year and to 17.4 percent as of last June 30, according to PLDT's first semester report for 2001.

Wireless businesses—mobile phone services of subsidiaries Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel)—increased their contribution to 31 percent of group revenues in the first half of 2001, growing from 23 percent in the same period of last year.

Data and other Internet services grew to 6 percent of consolidated revenues in the first half of this year from 4 percent in the same period in 2000. These services—mostly the lease of telephone lines to businesses—had the highest percentage growth in revenue among PLDT's businesses, at 73 percent to P2.3 billion in the first half of 2001 from P1.3 billion a year before.

The company said it expects more growth in revenues and profits from data services and from e-PLDT, its Internet and multimedia subsidiary, in the next few years.

PLDT's other earnings come from local exchange and national direct dial operations.

DFNN signs deal to create finance portal in INQ7.net

INQ7 Interactive Inc. and Diversified Financial Network Inc. on Monday forged an agreement to create a personal finance section that will see the two corporations sharing content, operational and technological resources.

DFNN shall redirect its relevant Web addresses, including www.dfnn.com, to the said personal finance section. The agreement is seen to boost INQ7.net's interactive finance services while expanding the reach of the www.dfnn.com website.

"DFNN will complement the up-to-the-minute news offering of INQ7.net in the area of interactive financial services, a natural fit in INQ7.net's Business section," said Dennis Valdes, president of INQ7.net. "This would transform INQ7.net's Business section into a full online financial services site, while extending the reach of the DFNN.com website to the millions of INQ7.net viewers worldwide."

DFNN executive chair Ramon Garcia Jr. said: "This agreement allows us to strategically align INQ7 and the DFNN site to allow better economies of scale, reach, functionality and content. This is a worldwide trend which allows for a strong match-up of partners with complementary skills."

Under the agreement, DFNN shall continuously develop interactive tools and databases for the personal finance section while INQ7.net retains control over the editorial content. The existing human resources of the two will remain in their respective companies.

"The online cooperation between INQ7.net and DFNN represents an emerging trend in today's online businesses, where complementary technologies and services have to align with each other," said Valdes.

Garcia added: "This will allow two divisions in DFNN, The Consumer Site (or the portal) and the Business Services (or software development and IT consultancy) to have two clear directions. INQ7 will also benefit from the many different software and application tools DFNN has developed to enhance INQ7's services to their readers and later explore transactional capabilities."

How to center a table in MS Word

By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

WHEN you first create a table in Microsoft Word, the table is, by default, from margin to margin. You can adjust any part of the table and affect the alignment or location of your table. If you want your table centered after your adjustments, follow these steps:

(1) Create a table and adjust it to your preference.

(2) Select the table by highlighting its columns and rows.

(3) Select the "Table" menu, then choose "Cell Height and Width."

(4) Make sure the tab called "Row" is selected then select the "Center" option.

(5) Click "OK."

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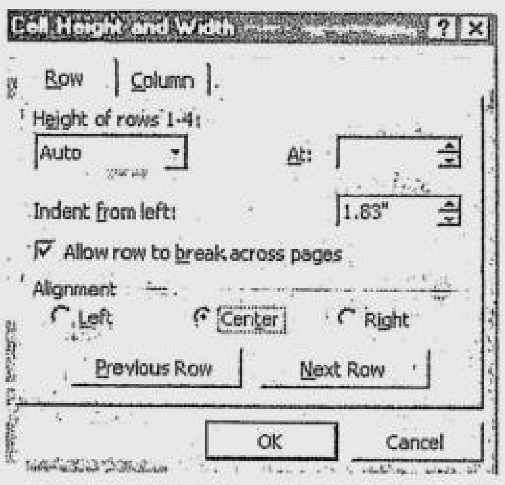


Height of rows 1-4: Auto
At:
Indent from left: 1.83"
☑ Allow row to break across pages
Alignment
○ Left ● Center ○ Right

IF you want your Microsoft Word table centered after making some adjustments, you can do so by calling on the "Table" menu.

RP 'good market' for i-mode . . .

(From page B15)

messages being sent by Filipinos every day. Another thing going for the country is the introduction of general packet radio system (GPRS) technology which Smart Communications soft-launched early this year. Rival Globe Telecom has also unveiled its own GPRS service. GPRS is a launchpad for 3G, and NTT has equity investment in Smart.

However, Natsuno refused to confirm if DoCoMo is talking to Philippine operators.

"Where there is 3G, we can offer 3G i-mode," he said. "The Philippines is a candidate, but any country could be suitable for wireless Internet adoption. I don't believe in exporting i-mode as it is from Japan," Natsuno said, explaining that each country would have its own requirements.

Regarding the Smart-NTT connection, Natsuno said: "NTT is a separate entity from DoCoMo, so don't look at us as a group." He added that it doesn't mean that Smart automatically gets the first foot into the 3G i-mode service since Globe Telecom, Smart's competitor, also plans to go into 3G technology.

I-mode is closely being watched by other telecommunications companies worldwide because of its spectacular growth in terms of subscriber base and, consequently, revenue for DoCoMo. It took the Japanese telco six months to hit critical mass, which Natsuno pegged at one million subscribers. Two-and-a-half years later, this number ballooned to 26 million.

To get a better perspective of this figure, there are 125 million Japanese, and the consumer population is only 86 million. This means that almost a third of the Japanese consumer market, those who have purchasing power, is subscribed to i-mode.

But the beauty behind i-mode's success is that third parties supply all the content needed to drive all this interest in the wireless service. DoCoMo acts only as the infrastructure provider. The i-mode service gives subscribers access to 146 search engines, 1,820 websites, 450 online banks and more than 47,000 voluntary i-mode sites (unofficial site partners with no contract with DoCoMo, meaning they decided on their own to make their content i-mode-compatible). This translates to earnings for both content and infrastructure provider. For example, Disney-I, which sells popular Disney tunes as ringing tones, has 1.3 million users downloading new tones every day—for a fee. In addition, each subscriber sends an average of eight paid e-mail messages every day (15 percent of i-mode usage is devoted to e-mail). On top of all this is the monthly service fee of about $20. Multiply that by 26.2 million subscribers and that's $524 million a month for DoCoMo.

DoCoMo is now set to expand its market by offering the 3G version of i-mode in other countries which will adopt 3G.

"Anywhere 3G goes, we'll also go," Natsuno said. "Before, I used to hear people say that Japanese people are a different species, and that only the Japanese have small gadgets. Now we want to prove i-mode to the world. They say i-mode is proprietary. They say our 3G is not compatible. That is not true. We can have 3G i-mode anywhere there is 3G."

And that market, in the future, will include the Philippines.

US trade deficit widens

WASHINGTON—The United States announced Friday a 3.3-percent widening in its June trade deficit as the global slowdown drove down exports, heightening concern over the US economic outlook.

The deficit in goods and services trade widened to $29.4 billion in June from a revised $28.5 billion in May, the Commerce Department reported.

The figures might lead to a downward revision in figures showing US gross domestic product grew at a meager 0.7-percent pace in the second quarter, said Reusch International economist Alex Beuzelin.

"It will continue to fuel uncertainty about the US economy and whether or not it has bottomed and when exactly is it going to turn around," the economist added.

Markets are sweating over the fear that a much-heralded US recovery in the second half of this year may be postponed.

Signs this week of a bottoming-out in industrial output clashed with a gloomy Beige Book report by the Federal Reserve, which pointed to weak manufacturing and disappointing retail sales.

But investors are counting on the policymaking Federal Open Market Committee to give the economy an extra boost by cutting the key interest rate, probably by 25 basis points, when it meets this week.

Those expectations were boosted by data Thursday showing consumer prices fell by a 15-year record 0.3 percent in July, easing inflationary fears that might have stayed the Fed's hand.

US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said the economy had been experiencing a natural correction in the past year as three years of Internet-led excesses were shed.

"We are going through that process, and we are going to start moving forward," he said.

O'Neill also defended the White House forecast for US gross domestic product growth of 3.2 percent next year as being in a reasonable range.

The latest Commerce Department trade data showed exports slumped 2 percent to $85.95 billion and imports eased by 0.7 percent to $115.36 billion.

Both exports and imports were at their lowest levels since February 2000.

"The combination of a strong dollar and softer foreign economies has really hurt the ability of domestic firms to sell overseas," said Naroff Economic Advisors president and chief economist Joel Naroff.

"Interestingly, we managed to export more to Asia and South and Central America, but Europe seemed to shut its doors to US goods."

In trade with Japan, the US deficit expanded to $5 billion from $4.81 billion in May. But the deficit was down from $6.4 billion in June 2000.

Likewise, with China, the US trade deficit grew to $6.6 billion in June from $6.1 billion in May. A year earlier, however, the US deficit with China was $7.2 billion.

"On the import side, China seems to be emptying out its warehouses and dumping them in the United States as our purchases of Chinese products soared in June," Naroff said.

The US deficit with Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan edged up to $1.85 billion in June from $1.79 billion in May. But it was down from $1.98 billion in June 2000.

The United States enjoyed a trade surplus with Britain of $467 million in June, compared with a surplus of $446 million in May and a deficit of $25 million in June 2000.

But the US trade deficit with the euro zone fell to $4.17 billion from $4.85 billion in May. It was up from $3.51 billion in May last year. *AFP*

O'Neill says dollar to remain strong

WASHINGTON—US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said Friday he believed the dollar would remain strong, dismissing speculation over a weakening in policy as ridiculous.

The dollar dropped to a five-month low Thursday, largely over uncertainty about the US economic outlook.

But some foreign exchange traders also blamed O'Neill's failure to use the words "strong dollar" to describe US policy in a CNBC television interview Wednesday.

Asked whether the days of the strong dollar were over in an interview Friday with CNN, the treasury secretary replied, "No, absolutely not."

US productivity growth was growing faster than in the rest of the world, drawing in foreign investment and creating a strong dollar, he said.

"I think we will continue to have a strong dollar," O'Neill added.

"We are not going to change our policy."

The treasury secretary said it was amusing that some people felt he had not been strong enough in his earlier comment on the currency, when he had stressed that policy was unchanged.

"The whole thing is ridiculous in some ways," he added, noting "the degree to which people want to make something out of nothing".

O'Neill also defended the White House forecast for US gross domestic product growth of 3.2 percent next year.

"Oftentimes, the rate of increase coming out of a correction is much faster than what we are foreseeing in our expectations for the next calendar year. So I think we are in a reasonable range," he said. *AFP*

Ford cuts up to 5,000 jobs, slashes outlook

DEARBORN, Michigan—Ford Motor Co. announced Friday plans to ax 4,000 to 5,000 jobs in North America this year as it sliced its 2001 earnings outlook, sending its shares into a slump.

The auto giant cut its earnings per share forecast for 2001 to just 70 cents from $1.25 to $1.35 and said it would reduce jobs in a voluntary redundancy program to improve efficiency.

Ford blamed lower sales volumes, higher marketing expenses and costs for customer satisfaction initiatives, alluding to a planned settlement to a dispute over allegedly faulty ignition systems.

Standard and Poor's rating agency placed Ford and General Motors Corp. on credit watch with negative implications, meaning it may downgrade their credit ratings.

The two carmakers had failed to cut costs fast enough in the face of tough price competition, it said.

"Hence, their profitability in North America has deteriorated significantly, boding ill for their financial performance if a significantly weaker market environment were to evolve."

Rival credit rating agency Moody's also put Ford on review for a possible downgrade.

Ford was already suffering after announcing in May it would spend $2.1 billion to replace all 13 million Firestone Wilderness AT tires on its vehicles due to safety fears.

This week, the carmaker announced it had agreed to settle a legal row over suspect ignition systems, but it fiercely denied reports the bill would come in at up to $1 billion.

Ford chief financial officer Martin Inglis said he was unable to discuss the terms of the proposed settlement.

But the total cost would be "several million dollars" for both the ignition dispute settlement and a separate problem involving faulty 3.8-liter engines in some 1994-1995 Windstar minivans. *AFP*

Pacific leaders buck moves vs tax havens

NAURU—Leaders of 16 Pacific countries ended a summit here Saturday strongly condemning moves to curtail their tax haven operations.

The Pacific Forum issued a communiqué after two days of meetings, including a section on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which had a "harmful tax" initiative underway.

The OECD and its related Financial Action Task Force has given Nauru, along with the Philippines and Russia, a Sept.-30 deadline to halt money-laundering or else, face sanctions.

Host Nauru operates around 400 offshore banks, all registered to one government mailbox.

Other Pacific nations—Cook Islands, Niue, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu—are also facing OECD deadlines.

The forum's communiqué questions the OECD's right to take action.

"Leaders reaffirmed the sovereign right of nations to establish domestic tax regimes of their own design and choosing," the communiqué said.

The leaders called for a "cooperative framework" within which, countries could work together to address transparency, capacity building and appropriate information exchange in relation to tax matters.

The communiqué said they recognized the needs of both developing and developed countries.

"They also strongly objected to the creation of any 'blacklist' by the OECD prior to reaching a negotiated agreement," the communiqué said. *AFP*

UOB moves closer to taking over rival

SINGAPORE—United Overseas Bank has received support from 82.73 percent of shareholders of smaller rival Overseas Union Bank for its friendly takeover bid, according to its adviser.

A statement by Merrill Lynch said the level of acceptances was reached at 5 p.m. Friday.

UOB has extended the deadline for its S$10-billion ($5.7-billion) bid until the end of the month.

Analysts said the extension was intended to allow shareholder acceptances to rise to 90 percent, at which point UOB could automatically acquire the rest of the shares in OUB.

The statement said the takeover bid had already received "in-principle" approvals from the Singapore Exchange Trading Ltd. and the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the city-state's de facto central bank.

UOB, Singapore's second biggest bank, launched in June its bid for OUB—the fourth largest in a pool of five homegrown banks.

The bid topped a hostile one for OUB by DBS Bank totaling S$9.4 billion.

DBS, Singapore's biggest bank, declined to engage UOB in a bidding war and dropped out of the race after getting only 1.2-percent acceptances by the time its offer expired last week.

Analysts said a marriage between UOB and OUB would vault the merged entity past DBS as the top domestic bank.

On Friday, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. announced it had taken control of Keppel Capital Holdings Ltd. and all its subsidiaries to clinch the first merger in Singapore's bank consolidation race.

Keppel Capital is the parent of Keppel TatLee Bank, the smallest of the five Singapore banks, and was bought by OCBC for S$5.21 billion.

The merger process is expected to cut the number of local banks from five to three. *AFP*

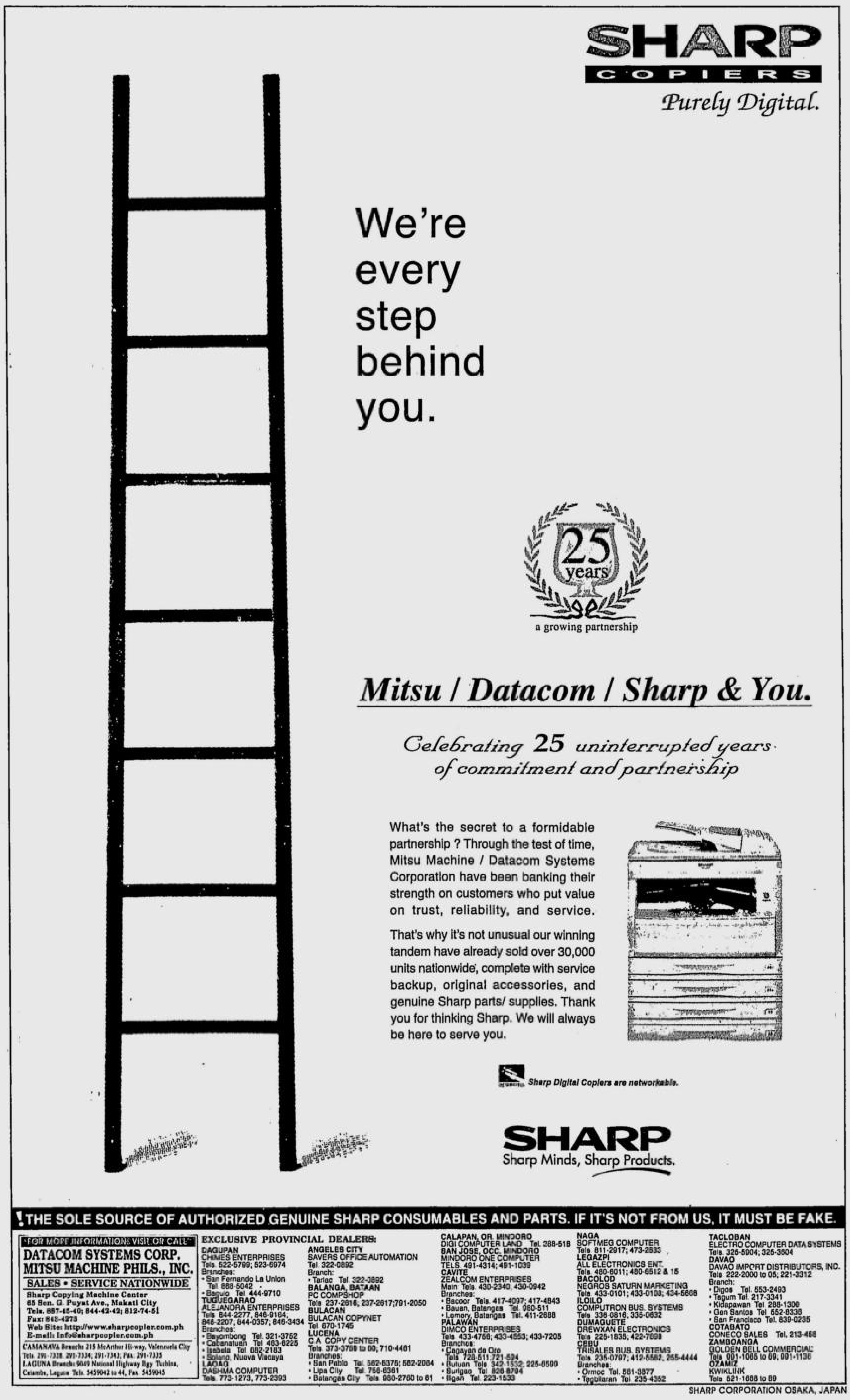
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) has approved the application of Citicorp Securities International (RP), Inc. (CSI) for the temporary voluntary suspension of its equity trading operations.

Effective September 1, 2001, World Wide Securities Services of Citibank, N.A. will act as CSI's custodian for all shares held in CSI's custody as of August 31, 2001.

However, you may continue to course all your concerns and queries to Citicorp Securities International (RP), Inc. through:

Anne Yusay
Citicorp Securities International (RP), Inc.
10/F Citibank Tower
Valero Street, Makati City
Telephone No: (632) 8947439
Fax No: (632) 8947825



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SHARP CORPORATION OSAKA, JAPAN

Dispute threatens to cripple Nissan

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A SIMMERING labor dispute is threatening to stall operations of Nissan Motor Philippines Inc., the second major automotive assembler after Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., to be hit by a restive labor union this year.

A company insider said management and labor hit a wall in their ongoing negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement and that Nissan Philippines' unions were preparing to go on strike.

The insider said the firm's assembly operations had been disrupted in the past few days as union members implemented a work slowdown to pressure management into yielding to their demands.

Nissan Philippines' management has been sending distress signals to the government for support to avert a looming stoppage in its Laguna factory, which may cost the company millions of pesos in losses.

Toyota Philippines claimed it lost over P150 million after its union staged a strike at its assembly plants that disrupted operations for more than a week from March to April this year.

Toyota Philippines earlier warned that several other assemblers were planning to pull out of the country should the government fail to implement its labor rules by the book and address a growing restiveness among labor unions in the country.

The impending strike at Nissan Philippines is bad news for Yulon Motor Co. Ltd., Taiwan's biggest auto assembler and parts maker, which has been able to reinvigorate Nissan's brand name since it took over in 1999.

Yulon owns 36 percent of Nissan Philippines but it has full management control of the firm. Its partners are Nissan Motor Co. of Japan, 13 percent; Marubeni Corp., 5 percent; and a group of Filipino investors, 46 percent.

Nissan ranked fifth, with 4,807 units sold, or an 11.3-percent market share in the first seven months of the year based on a report by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.

Last year, Yulon earmarked half of its P8-billion capital outlay for Nissan Philippines to upgrade the assembler's facilities.

Yulon plans to boost output to 25,950 over the next few years from 4,030 units last year. This is still below the plant's installed capacity of 32,000 units a year.

PNOC to pick lead arranger of $150-M loan

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Co.'s geothermal subsidiary, Energy Development Corp., will choose today a lead arranger for a $100-million financing facility to partially refund the $150-million Eurobond II maturing in December.

"There are proposals from 11 banks, but the frontrunners are Lehman Brothers, Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi and JP Morgan," Energy Secretary Vicente Perez said in a news briefing Friday.

PNOC-EDC expects the loan to be released by the second half of November.

Eurobond II was issued in early 1996 and was used to finance the 40-megawatt Mindanao 2 geothermal plant in the vicinity of Mt. Apo.

The proceeds of the bond issue were also used to fund geothermal exploration efforts in Mt. Labo; Camarines Sur and in Negros.

Morgan Stanley led the consortium of local and international banks that arranged the bond issue.

Eurobond II was issued at a coupon rate of 8.5 percent with a tenor of five years and a bullet payment upon maturity on Dec. 6.

The state-run firm originally targeted a $200-million financing facility from the Tokyo capital market, but it observed that Japanese investors were not interested.

In an earlier interview, PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol explained that the firm wanted the refinancing to be a long-term arrangement so that it would be easier for the mother company.

PNOC decided to issue Eurobond II after the success of the $90-million original eurobond in 1993.

Proceeds from that issuance was used for a five-year, P40-billion program for the development steam fields and build geothermal power plant with a total capacity of 1,500 megawatts.

MWSS stalls Maynilad rates hike

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage Systems-Regulatory Office has issued a new ruling that may stall Maynilad Water Services Inc.'s bid to raise its rates by P4.75 per cubic meter next month.

Ranking officials said the MWSS-Regulatory Office ruled that the provisions of the memorandum of cooperation between the MWSS and Maynilad Water Services Inc. introduced amendments to the concession agreement between the two firms.

The memorandum, signed by MWSS Administrator Jose Mabanta and Maynilad president Rafael Alunan III in June, allowed Maynilad to raise its rates by P4.75 per cubic meter next month.

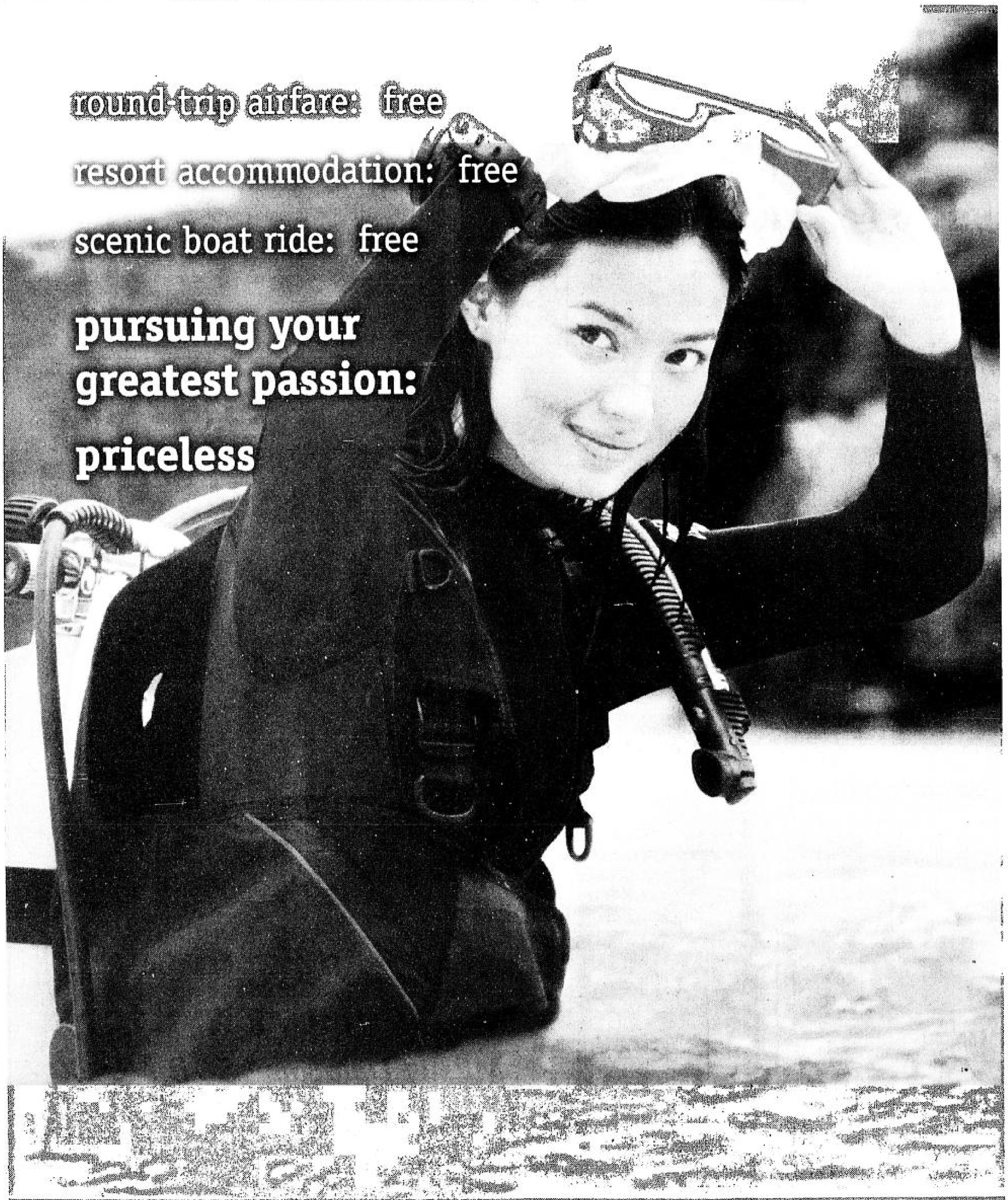
Malacañang, however, last month ordered the MWSS to recall and review the memorandum.

"Our new findings showed that the provisions (of the memorandum) are basically not within the concession agreement because foreign exchange losses could only be recovered through the life of the concession, which is 22 years," a person familiar with the situation told the INQUIRER.

The MWSS allowed Maynilad to raise its rates to allow the Lopez-owned company to recover P2.7 billion worth of foreign exchange-related losses.

Maynilad has reported that because of the peso's steep depreciation against the dollar, the debts it absorbed from the MWSS have grown substantially, jeopardizing its operations.

An official of the MWSS-Regulatory Office said that since the memorandum clearing Maynilad's rates increase amended the original MWSS-Maynilad concession agreement, it would have to be approved by the Department of Finance, the MWSS board of trustees and Manila Water Co. Inc.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Taxing entertainers: Too little or too much?

By Clarissa S. Batino

LAST Thursday evening, people watching the news on TV were treated to a dissonance of sorts when some actors and emcees took turns opposing what they understood to be a new rule that will increase their income taxes starting next month.

It was dissonant because some members of the entertainment industry have been suspected of not paying the right taxes.

The big names in the professional basketball league get tens of millions for a two- to three-year contract.

The new rule affects professional entertainers such as, but not limited to, actors and actresses, singers and emcees; professional athletes including basketball players, pelotaris and jockeys; all directors involved in movies, stage, radio, television and musical productions.

These people will be required starting next month to increase to 20 percent from 10 percent the amount of withholding taxes they must remit to the BIR.

A source from the entertainment industry explains that actors and performers will interpret the increase in withholding tax as an increase in their taxes because the industry practice is to lower their earnings by making it appear that the rest of their income was paid out to representation.

Representation, considered as part of doing the business, is one of the items that the BIR allows certain taxpayers to deduct from their taxable income.

"The common practice is to make the rest of their earnings appear as if they were used for representation," says the source.

Because of this malpractice, the entertainment industry naturally read the new BIR policy to mean higher taxes for their lot.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho tried to correct the wrong impression. "This is not an increase in taxes because only Congress can legislate an increase in taxes. The finance secretary was authorized to increase what we call a creditable withholding tax."

A withholding tax deducted in advance from an individual is eventually subtracted from the final tax that a taxpayer eventually remits to the government during tax payment season.

Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison pointed out that a 20-percent withholding tax is only equivalent to the final tax that a person earning P140,000 yearly will have to pay the government.

"How many actors and basketball players you know earn less than P140,000 a month?" Camacho asked.

Camacho pointed out that those covered by the 100-percent increase in withholding tax will most likely shell out a bigger amount come April, the tax payment season.

But representatives of the entertainment industry who met with BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez last Friday contested the new policy and said that there are men and women from their ranks who are paid talent fees way below the P140,000 yearly threshold.

Bañez said the BIR was willing to revert back to 10 percent the withholding tax for the so-called "talents" like make-up artists earning measly fees compared with their idols.

Also covered by the increase to 20 percent in withholding taxes are other recipients of talent fees, fees of corporate directors whose duties are confined to attendance and participation during board meetings and companies acting as agents for entertainers and performers.

Other professionals like doctors, lawyers, accountants, engineers, among others, were exempted from the increase.

Entertainers cried that the exclusion of other professionals from the higher withholding tax was unfair.

"The amounts subject to the increase in withholding tax include not only fees but also per diems, allowances and any other form of income payments including talent fees and the amount paid to them for the use of their names in pictures or in print," according to the BIR regulation.

Camacho admitted that the entertainers and professional athletes are classified as "hard-to-tax" because their earnings vary, unlike fixed-income earners, whose withholding taxes end up to be their final tax obligation.

Finance officials also admitted there could be cases of tax evasion among these groups but refuse to say how much the leakage stands.

The finance secretary pointed out that the government will not realize any additional increase in revenue from the new regulation because these are taxes that the professional entertainers and athletes must remit to the state in the first place.

If at all, Camacho said the government will only realize "timing gains" because it can avail of the funds in advance which it can use to finance important projects.

"Through the new regulation, we can also have a better picture of the situation and see whether or not these guys have been paying the correct taxes," said the finance chief.

LORENZO steps out of father's shadow

CEO adopts dad's formula in running agri-based firm

By Christine A. Gaylican

ONE of the few remaining family-owned companies is the Lapanday Holdings Corp., which has made a name internationally for its fresh fruits and vegetables exports.

Businessman Luis "Moro" Lorenzo saw the potential of the agribusiness company, which the Ayala Corp. and Aboitiz Group have divested from in 1983. Now, his children have turned it into a multibillion-dollar company.

MANAGEMENT
STYLES

Directly taking over Moro Lorenzo's reins is Luis "Cito" Lorenzo Jr., who has proven that he is more than his father's shadow as he steers the company through some rough-sailing brought by the financial crisis in 1997.

He closed down some of its subsidiaries and focused on the export of agriculture produce, which include cavendish bananas and pineapples to other Asian and Middle East countries.

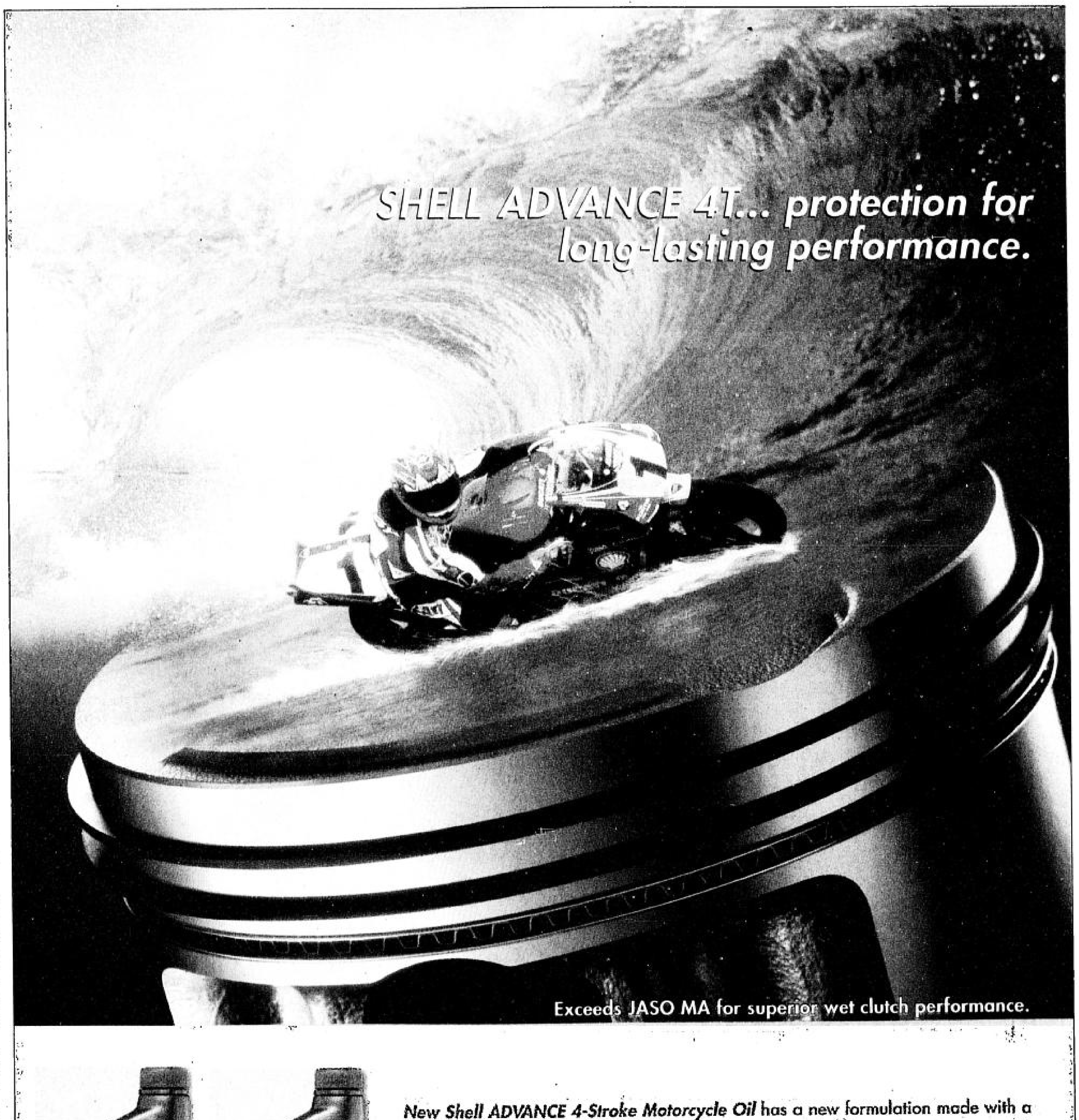
Cito downplays what he has done for Lapanday and looks up to his father's management style, which he and his siblings have imbibed all these years.

"What I really appreciate of my father is that he is very good in dealing with his people. He knew well how to relate with them. He always worked for a consensus to arrive at a win-win situation," Cito recalls in an interview with BusinessMonday.

Cito worked under his father's tutelage for 13 years after finishing his business master's degree in Wharton School of Pennsylvania and working for two years as an investment trader in Wall Street.

"It was something that I could not forget because the banana plantation then was plagued with labor problems left and right. But we were able to solve them," he says. "After these incidents, I have looked at the value of our people

CEO/ C5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A case for mining —making a difference

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Gerald H. Brimo

THE OLDEST copper-gold mine in the country, the Padcal mine of Philex Mining Corp., is into its 44th year of continuous operations. It straddles Barangays Camp 3 and Ampucao, as well as the municipalities of Tuba and Itogon, province of Benguet, about 17 aerial kilometers from Baguio City.

It was established in the late 1950s, way before the advent of the stringent social and environmental prescriptions of the 1995 Mining Act. Yet, the mine's track record in these aspects is second to none. This mine has made and continues to make, a difference in many ways.

Let us look at this operation in some detail.

Mine community

Within the host Barangay Camp 3, the company has constructed a township that now accommodates no less than 18,000 people. The community is complete with residential, medical and recreational facilities, schools, a marketplace, churches, a community center and other facilities required to sustain such a population.

It is staggering to think that any company would construct such extensive facilities, but in the case of mining, it is for the most part inevitable. Ore deposits are normally located in far-flung areas with very little population and hardly any infrastructure.

Proper roads have to be built to access the site. In order to attract labor, facilities also have to be built to house and take care of the workforce and their dependents. Thus, infrastructure is created and an entire community is borne. There is no finer example of countryside development.

The elementary school, free of charge, has been in existence for the last 39 years and has a yearly enrollment of about 3,000 students. The high school, 75 percent subsidized by Philex and with a yearly enrollment of 1,650 students, has been in operation for the past 25 years.

Philex's 46-bed capacity Sto. Niño Hospital has a medical staff of 15 and treats an average of 300 patients daily. The education and medical care, which are made available to residents of the adjoining communities as well, are of the highest standards.

The cornerstone of Philex community programs is the Family Welfare Program. In 1994, the company achieved Hall of Fame status from the Department of Labor and Employment as one of the country's 20 most outstanding firms with a family welfare program after winning the award for three consecutive years.

In the same year, the company won the Health and Management Information System (HAMIS) bronze award from the DOH, which was capped by the silver award in the following year. This year, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines recognized the company as a child-friendly firm.

The growth of the host Barangay Camp 3 into a topnotch barangay as a result of the mining operation is evident in many other ways. It achieved Hall of Fame status in 1997 for being the Most Outstanding Lupong Tagapamayapa for three years.

It was chosen in 1995 as one of the 50 Model Communities in the World by the "We the Peoples Organization" of the United Nations (garnering for its good Brgy. Capt. Naz Rivera a free trip to New York).

Labor force

The operation employs about 3,000 people on a full-time basis and hundreds more through contracts. The labor force and their dependents are housed for free within the mine site community.

Utilities, transportation to and from their work places, schooling, except for the heavily subsidized high school, medical and dental care and quite a number of other benefits are given for free.

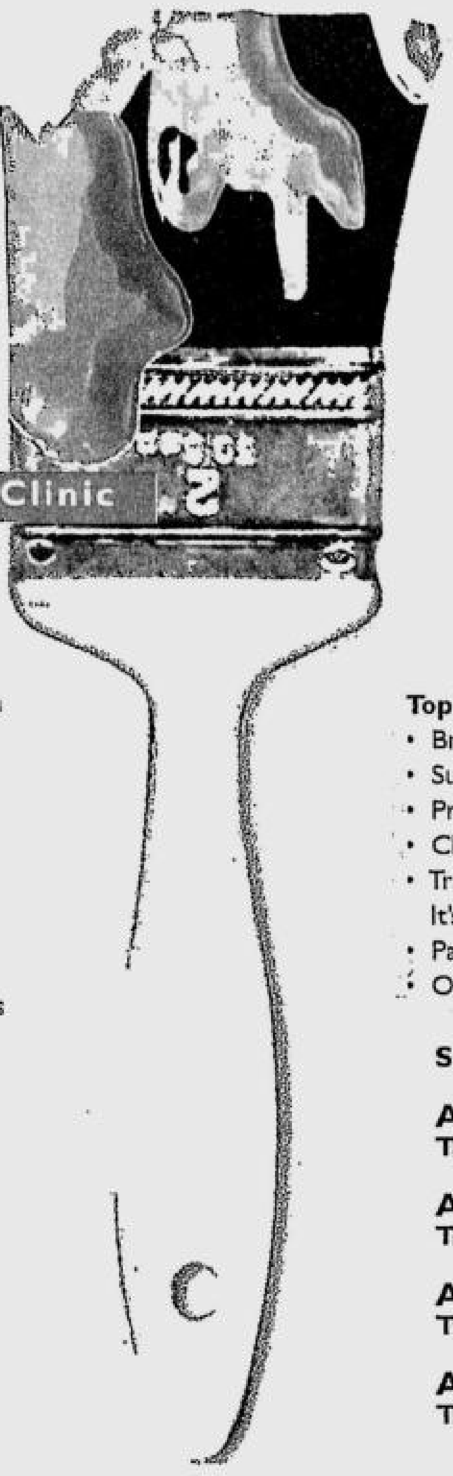
These are, again, substantial benefits for any company to consider, but largely inevitable in the context of a large-scale mining operation.

About 30 percent of the workforce are indigenous to the Cordilleras—Ibalois, Kankana-eys, Ifugaos, Kalingas, and Kalanguyas are all represented within various levels of the workforce. The rest are from all other parts of the country, making the workforce a true melting pot. Not surprisingly, no less than 40 civic-social, professional and religious groups have been formed over the years.

These groups are partners of the company in fostering peace and order, environmental protection, community development, sanitation and beautification. A few of the groups are cooperatives. In 1964, with initial seed capital from the company, the Philex Employees Credit Cooperative was formed and earned, over the years, various awards and recognitions.

In 1999 and 2000, it was adjudged by the Cooperative Development Authority to be the Most Outstanding Credit Cooperative in the Philippines. In 2000, the Philex Employees Consumer Cooperative was also adjudged to be the

A CASE/ C4



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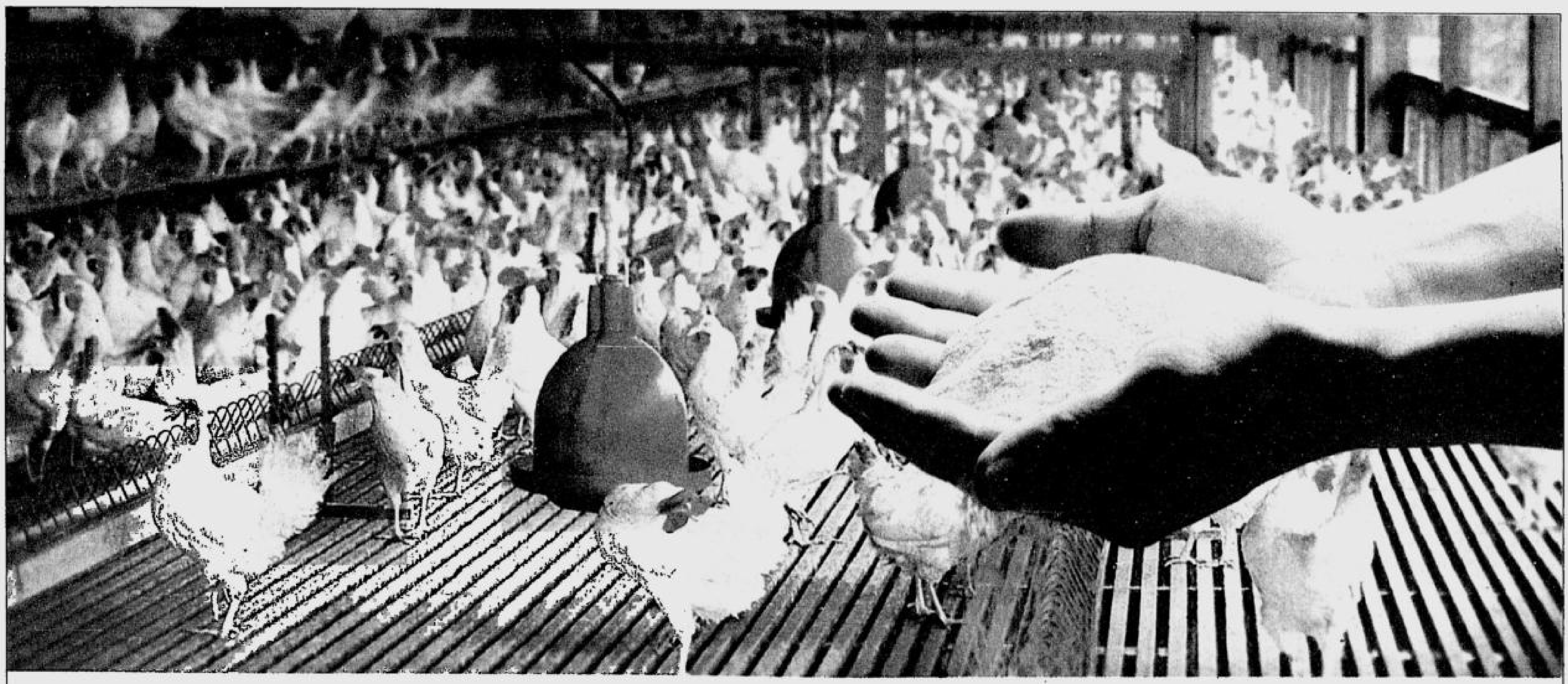

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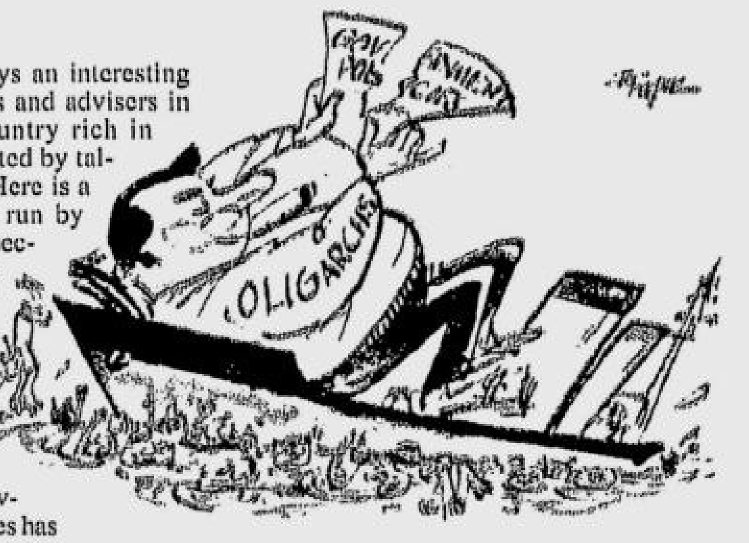
Twilight of oligarchs

By Victor S. Limlingan



THE PHILIPPINES is always an interesting case study for policy makers and advisers in development. Here is a country rich in natural resources and populated by talented and educated people. Here is a country with a government run by savvy bureaucrats, a private sector bristling with professional managers and a civil society drawn from a dedicated citizenry.

And yet, judging from the results, the Philippines has been the laggard of Asia, posting the lowest growth rate and the highest level of poverty. Just recently the Philippines has been downgraded in its competitiveness ranking from 29 in 1997 to 40 in 2001.

Several explanations have been offered for this unusual case. They ranged from a "damaged culture" to the wrong development strategy (import-substitution rather than export promotion) to a highly centralized bureaucracy.

And yet when the Philippines shifted to an export-promotion strategy and devolved authority to the local government units, no dramatic improvements occurred.

And now the latest panacea is good governance. Under this nostrum, directors of corporations, both public and private are supposed to be tutored in transparency, accountability and respect for the rights of the minority stockholders and of the consumers. Being thus schooled in good governance they will then do their duty and all will be well.

But that is placing too much faith in the transforming power of education and too little wariness of the pervading presence of self-interest. For under this approach, we are asking the politicians and the business families to act contrary to their self-interest. We are presuming that goodwill will prevail over greed when we know that it is usually greed that prevails over goodwill.

Oligarchs to blame

We subscribe to the view espoused by Prof. Romulo L. Neri, director general of the Congressional Planning and Budget Office and author of "Economics & Public Policy (AIM: 2001)," that the causes of poverty and bad governance are rooted in the oligarchic domination of the Philippine political economy. According to Neri, the historical domination of the Philippines by the oligarchic elite has allowed it to distort government policies and keep its institutions weak.

The ability of the oligarchy to distort government policy is exercised through political influence and through appointments of proteges in the state bureaucracy.

While most will agree with the diagnosis of Neri, others are skeptical that his prescription "(CPBO Report Towards a Decade of Sustained Growth)" will work.

They consider the CPBO report an excellent compendium of the distorted public policies that must be corrected. But they do not see any proposal on how the government will prevent the oligarchy from frustrating its efforts to correct the public policy distortions.

Neri acknowledges that the CPBO program will meet stiff opposition from the oligarchs. But he argues that the time is now appropriate given that the oligarchs have been greatly weakened by the first Asian crisis.

We agree that the first Asian crisis did weaken

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Mambo No. 5: A little bit of fighting poverty ...

By Dennis M. Arroyo

A SUMMARY of the poverty reduction agenda in the President's State of the Nation Address or Sona. It's to the tune of Lou Bega's "Mambo No. 5."

SONA NUMBER ONE
Ladies and gentlemen, this is Sona Number One.

One, two, three, four, five.
Everybody help along, so come on, let's fly
To the growth path around the corner.
I now say we have this li'l plan
So the poor will be empowered.

The peso's down, it's very weak,
The mess is deep and talk is cheap.
I like land reform, health care, schools and housing
And as I continue, the list is overwhelming.

So what can I do, I really beg you my Lord.
To me econ is just like a sport.
Everything flies, it's all good, let me pump it.
We're all set to trumpet:

A little bit of kind free enterprise,
A little bit of agri modernized,
We will protect those left behind,
And moral leadership you will find.

A little bit of red tape to cut and throw,
Welcome investment, time to grow.
A lot of speculators we will burn,
A lot of tax evaders will get their turn.
Sona Number One.
Jump up, go down, we're moving all around
The corrupt we will hound, run the Abus to the ground.
Talk to the Left, reach out down South.
Go to the front. Army at my side.
Clap your hands once and clap your hands twice
We'll get those crime gangs and crush them on sight.

A little micro-credit for the farm,
We'll build irrigation in Malmar.
The landless man will own his field.
A million jobs this all will yield.

Low-cost housing we will see,
Health insurance for you and me.
Cheaper medicines—half the price,
More rolling stores to sell you rice.

All set,
We trumpet:
Sona Number One.

A little more pay for the faculty,
A little more books for the library,
A school in every barangay,
And scores will go from low to high.

A little bit of high technology,
A little more connectivity.
Spend on telecom, R&D.
Until we rule global I.T.

I do all to
try my best for a land like you.
We will run and we will fly,
Take off now, we'll touch the sky.

Japan firm grants aid to Filipino students

MATSUSHITA Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. of Japan established the Panasonic Scholarship program in 1998. It is awarded every year to students from six Asian countries. In Manila, the Matsushita Group of Companies has spearheaded the annual search for Panasonic scholars.

Education Secretary Raul S. Roco was guest of honor and speaker at the formal awarding ceremonies last Aug. 2 of the 2002 Panasonic Scholarship grants to five young Filipino professionals and outstanding graduates of top Philippine schools. The scholars, who will each receive 3 million yen (about P1 million) for the first year, will stay in Japan for three years and pursue studies in the natural sciences and engineering in Japanese universities.

The five 2001 Panasonic Scholars are now in various universities in Tokyo and Kyoto. The 2002 batch will undertake language studies and leave for Japan in April 2002.

The partnership between the Matsushita Group of Companies in the Philippines and the Filipino people dates back to 1967. In line with Matsushita's corporate policy of contributing to society through its business activities, the Human Development Center was established in 1993 to initiate a program for less privileged but talented Filipino youth. The center also serves as benefactor to various civic organizations and charitable institutions. It also supports the government in its economic development programs in the area of technology transfer and by being one of the highest corporate taxpayers in the Philippines.

The Matsushita Group's sponsorship of the Panasonic Scholarship Program in the Philippines comes at a critical time in the country's development.

Roco encouraged the scholars to share their knowledge with their countrymen upon their return from Japan. "Organizations today must operate on the need to share their knowledge. Money is impersonal. Education therefore, must ensure that persons must be willing to share and we're thanking Panasonic for sharing. Knowledge is essentially shareable and scholarship is just a tool for enhancing education," Roco said.

Tetsuya Uetake, managing director of Panasonic Scholarship Inc., said the Panasonic Scholarship-Japan has been programmed initially for five years (1998-2002) with a total budget of 1.5 billion yen to fund the assistance to 185 scholars from the six Asian countries. Thus far, 10 Filipino scholars have been given grants, next year five more will be chosen.

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Going for a win-win approach

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE WORLD of business is filled with tough situations and maybe there are none tougher than those that involve negotiations.

Trying to persuade a party with a different agenda from yours to see your point of view can easily result in hostility and strained relationships, if not done well.

Edward Layson, who conducts creative negotiation workshops based on Harvard University-developed theories, says the trick is to think rationally despite one's negative feelings toward the other party.

"We teach participants to separation relationship issues from substantive issues," he says.

A purchase officer, for example, may be faced with the situation where a *kumpare* wants to supply equipment to his company, but the quality is substandard.

Layson says the purchase officer should bring out his communication skills and also take advantage of the relationship to explain to his *kumpare* that they both want the best deal possible but that the company was looking at a certain standard of quality.

Layson explains the Harvard method doesn't stress "tactics" such as where to sit, what to wear or what body language to use, but rather, open communication.

The use of tactics assumes a "win-lose" approach or carries the attitude that one has to "put one over" the other party.

On the other hand, the "win-win" style will help strengthen the relationship even after the negotiations are over, he adds.

If there is a bad relationship between both sides, negotiations could quickly result in an emotional clash.

Layson advises that before starting, the parties "have to be aware of their emotions, they have to know themselves."

The sides should also try to cool down or get the staff to check up on them and remind them of the proper perspective.

"In business, settling a conflict will entail a long process. If they study the right approach, they can shorten the negotiating time," Layson notes.

The hardest situation to deal with, he says, is when the other side has closed the door on other options or compromises being proposed. One example is when the other person says, "basta" and insists on a certain position.

"Whether in labor or sales, if people are not open or cooperative, then you will not be able to solve the problem," he stresses.

This is why establishing a good relationship, building trust and, communicating well are very important in coming up with a resolution to a conflict, he says.

Layson's one-day course is supposed to allow participants to analyze negotiation situations and formulate strategies to resolve conflicts and differences critical to any level in the business organization.

By the end of the program, participants are expected to have learned the fundamentals of the win-win approach, building trust and improving work relationships, how to develop options in reaching agreement, and identify sources of power.

The program was patterned after the program on negotiation at Harvard Law School. Layson attended and completed the trainer's training program in the Boston-based university. Aside from the one-day course, of which the next one is scheduled on Aug. 23, he also conducts in-house training for companies.

A case . . .

(From page C2)

Most Outstanding Consumer Cooperative in the country.

Perhaps no other example typifies what solid employment under the above-mentioned setting can do for poverty alleviation than that of Rogelio Pontanosa, a miner for 22 years who hails from Pangasinan. In a letter to management upon his retirement this year, he mentioned how he was able to provide college education for six children who were educated in the company schools.

Five of them graduated from the St. Louis University in Baguio (one even cum laude); four obtained Education degrees and are now employed as teachers, the fifth obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. The sixth is still in college. For a rank-and-file miner to be able to have his children go to college and become professionals is a tremendous achievement!

Economic impact

Since the start of operations in 1958, the mine has generated total exports of $2.3 billion and has paid total taxes of P7.6 billion.

As a result of the 1991 Local Government Code, the excise tax on mineral products is distributed between the national government (60 percent) and the local government units (40 percent). The share of the local government units is in turn distributed between the provincial government (20 percent), the municipal government (45 percent) and the host barangay (35 percent).

Between the period 1991 to 2000, P621 million was paid in excise taxes alone. The national government received P372 million; the Benguet provincial government, P50 million; the Tuba and Itogon municipalities, P112 million and Barangays Camp 3 and Ampucao, P87 million.

You may wonder why the operation straddles two barangays and municipalities. The answer lies in the sharing of the excise tax.

It is, however, recognized that the company bylaw pays to the national government the excise tax, which is then distributed to the local government units, often after considerable delay.

Social benefits

The operation has in place a Social Management Development Program for the host and neighboring communities, consisting of education, livelihood, healthcare and infrastructure development. In the area of education, 112 pupils in the elementary school and 89 students in the high school are from the adjoining communities but enjoy the same privilege as the dependents of the company's employees.

A 32-bed capacity dormitory is made available to those who require lodging during the school year. Additionally, assistance is given in terms of construction materials, electrification, furniture and educational paraphernalia to the public schools within a 10-kilometer radius of the mine site.

In the area of health, the company's hospital is the most accessible primary health care facility that residents of the neighboring communities can avail of. Last year, about 1,675 residents availed of the hospital services free of charge, although a yearly budget is being implemented to control expenditures.

With company assistance, two "Botica ng Masa" drugstore cooperatives were established in adjoining communities to provide for affordable medicines. Two medical and dental missions were conducted last year, treating about 500 patients.

Livelihood programs for the most part consist of training programs for skills development and the establishment of farming cooperatives (the Sal-angan Muti-Purpose Cooperative, as one example) together with project management provided by the company. Employment contracts for road improvement projects and residential repairs are also farmed out to residents.

About 471 farmers from the nearby communities market their products in the community's marketplace.

In the area of infrastructure, the company converted a former logging trail into a fully concretized 21-kilometer road connecting to Baguio City. Now a provincial road but still being maintained by the company, it has opened up quite a stretch of the Cordilleras for settlement.

The company also helped construct four farm-to-market roads connected to adjoining sitios to the community in partnership with the municipality of Tuba. The Ligay irrigation system, a project initiated by the company in collaboration with the National Irrigation Authority, is a notable achievement.

Environmental programs

Philex disposes its mill tailings in fully engineered tailings ponds. The first was constructed in 1967 at a cost of P8.6 million, the second was completed in 1981 at a cost of P37 million, while the third became operational in 1992 at a cost of over P350 million.

The first tailings pond was decommissioned in the mid-1980s. It has been rehabilitated and converted into grassland. Five hectares of the pond serves as an experimental bamboo plantation with the objective of identifying the best species that could thrive in such an environment.

A total of 1,400 seedlings of four species were planted, with over 90 percent survival rate. The second tailings pond will undergo rehabilitation this year.

A feature of the company's environmental programs is reforestation since the mine site is located in a logged-out area. A total of 1,180 hectares have been successfully reforested with more than 3 million seedlings of various species planted.

Philex's seedling producing capacity has recently been increased to 1 million a year, half of which are produced in the company's nursery while the balance are produced by the community through the "Nursery Sa Bawat Bakuran" program, a livelihood program for the employee's dependents and residents of the neighboring communities.

Other environmental programs are mainly centered on erosion control, chiefly through the use of "vengineering" (a combination of vegetative and engineering techniques), management of used oil and lubricants, noise and air quality monitoring, and domestic solid waste management by recycling and composting. For the period 1967 to 2000 alone, total environmental-related expenditures amounted to P1.1 billion.

In 1998, the operation garnered the Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Platinum Award. It has also won, in 1991, 1994 and 2000, the "Best [illegible]ning Forest" award by the Department of Environment Natural Resources.

Summary

It is only possible to give but a flavor of what this operation has achieved in such a short narrative. Clearly, it has been substantial and would have benefited any other barangay or province in any other part of the country. It is one of the finest examples of poverty alleviation, countryside development and nation building. It is putting an otherwise useless mound of earth into productive use.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, chair of Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, and chair and chief executive officer of Philex Mining Corp. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

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Execs witness evolution of local currency

LONG before the Spaniards arrived in the Philippines, Filipinos were already exchanging rare shells, stones, organic materials and gold as a means of exchange for necessities and luxuries.

The earliest known real coin was the *piloncito*. It is stamped with the ancient Malay cipher for "ma" on top. The largest weighs 2.65 grams and the smallest weighs 0.09 gm.

When Magellan arrived in 1521, he brought Western coinage known as the *testoon*, which was a silver coin. The Legaspi expedition of 1565 established Spanish dominion over the Philippines and brought with it cob coinage.

Also known as "cut money," these irregularly shaped coins from various Central and South American colonial mints were hand struck from silver and gold slabs. They were brought to the Philippines to subsidize the colonial government, and in payment for commodities exchanged during the Manila-Acapulco Galleon trade. Because of the irregular shape, cobs were easily debased with unscrupulous people stripping off the silver. This prompted the imposition of strict controls in 1732, and ushered the age of pillar coinage or *dos mundos*.

These coins were made in Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Colombia and Chile and found their way to the Philippines.

By 1772, the Spanish mints issued machine-made coins known as "bust" coinage. These coins were carried to Manila by the galleons that regularly departed from Acapulco. These coins came in silver and in gold, known as doubloons.

Copper coins known as the *condin* were eventually used when the Spanish empire ran into a shortage of silver coins. Next came the *barrillas*, which bore the seal of Manila and the date 1728. These were coined almost continuously from the reign of Carlos III up to Isabela II.

By the start of the 19th century, the economy of Spain and her overseas empire was in shambles and the

EXECS/ C7

JAIME Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, vice chair of the Bank of the Philippines, at the currency exhibit with Finance Secretary and Mrs. Jose Isidro Camacho and BPI director Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

RUSTAN'S Supermarkets vice president Eduardo Carlos with BPI vice presidents Tessie Tan and Michael Mendoza

CEO . . .

(From page C1)

differently."

He shares that for him, the role of a CEO these days does not only evolve in the four walls of the office, he believes that directly seeking and talking with clients is a key in developing the company.

"The role of CEO today is first, he has to be a change agent, one that could translate the demands of his customers and lead his people in achieving these goals because he could not do it alone," he reiterates.

As a major food and agribusiness firm that produces their own brand subcontracts with the likes of Del Monte Pacific Ltd., Cito says that they have to keep on reinventing their products according to the dictates of the market.

"There is a very huge market for fruits and vegetables worldwide but this same market is always changing and we need to keep a constant watch on these trends for us to be better and better," says Cito.

Cito says that though he delegates the tasks, the 1997 financial crisis has forced the level of delegation to a much closer hands on management style that includes a daily exchange of information and communication with his managers.

"With this kind of business, you need to be involved. You could not be managing from a distance. You need to watch your cash flow and how you fare against your competitors," says Cito.

He has even kept his office at the ground floor level of the office building in Makati to be readily accessible to his managers and employees.

Fresh produce exporter Lapanday Foods Corp. targets to make some $10 million to $15 million in profits this year despite the current slowdown of world trade.

The subsidiary of Lapanday Holdings Corp. that engages in the export of bananas and pineapples would like to surpass its total earnings last year, which was placed at $7 million.

Cito plans to catch up and meet its yearend earnings target of at least $10 million by expanding its current product lines and penetrating new markets.

"We have to continue with our product diversification strategy and continue to aggressively pursue opportunities to source and market our fresh fruits, vegetables and seafood products," Cito tells BusinessMonday.

Cito admits though that the company has to double its efforts to meet these financial targets as the slowdown in global demand has reduced company earnings in January to May to about $2.5 million as compared with $4 million made in the same period last year.

He says the company is pushing to enter new markets for its fresh mango produce. Lapanday Foods made an initial shipment of 550 kilos of Guimaras mangoes to Australia last month.

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Analysts beware, lawyers smell blood

NEW YORK—Just how scared should analysts and Wall Street firms be if the oft-dreaded trial lawyers train their guns on Wall Street research?

A little, and maybe a lot more down the road, considering the number of disgruntled investors seeking to recoup losses on cratered Web stocks, legal experts say.

Two law firms in August named influential Internet analyst Mary Meeker and her employer, investment bank Morgan Stanley, in three suits alleging securities fraud. The firms claim Meeker failed to disclose her interest in attracting the investment banking business of companies she recommended.

Seeking to hold analysts like Meeker responsible for bullish reports ultimately may prove to have legal merit, and trigger a flood of new suits, experts say. Yet the lawyers behind the suits will need to surmount tough hurdles—such as showing Wall Street analysts had intended to deceive and that they caused investors to buy the securities—before their clients can collect on the claims.

"It's a plausible case, under (Securities and Exchange Commission antifraud provision) 10b5,,but God is in the details," said Jesse H. Choper, a law school professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

If Meeker intentionally went out to fool the public, "There is a good case for the proposition that there is deception and fraud under 10b5. But that proof is not often easy to come by," he said. "It's a lot more than putting out incorrect information."

Smelling blood

The suits claiming crooked analysis surfaced after Merrill Lynch & Co. surprised the legal profession when the No. 1 US brokerage forked over $400,000 to settle allegations that overly bullish research from its top Internet analyst, Henry Blodget, caused a New York pediatrician to lose $500,000 earmarked for his daughter's college tuition.

Some lawyers started smelling blood.

"These plaintiffs don't have any hot scoop. The lawyers see an opportunity for a piece of business, a new case to add to their inventory," said Wayne W. Smith, a lawyer in the Orange County, California office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, which defends companies against class-action claims.

"They've read a bunch of press reports, and are basically jumping on those reports, piggybacking on them to show that something was amiss," he said.

Morgan Stanley is taking a similar tack. The firm has called the lawsuits, which seek class action status on behalf of shareholders in online retailer Amazon.com Inc., media giant AOL Time Warner Inc. and auction site eBay Inc., "totally meritless."

Meeker's integrity is "beyond reproach" and the suits are a "publicity stunt," Morgan Stanley has said.

Trial and tribulations

The lawsuits are the latest in a harsh scrutiny of investment banking as recriminations mount over who was responsible for the technology stock bubble of 1999 and 2000.

The bubble's collapse has sent shares of Amazon.com, AOL and eBay plunging 50 percent or more from their peaks, and caused the retirement accounts of many to shrivel.

Other probes include a federal investigation of how Wall Street firm doled out shares of hot new stock offerings; hearings before Congress on analysts' conflicts-of-interest; stock ownership prohibitions; and an SEC inquiry that uncovered analysts who personally bet against stocks they rated a "buy."

In particular, the lawsuits follow a spate of claims by plaintiffs' law firms against Wall Street for not disclosing in IPO documents favored treatment of some investors.

"There has been in the last three months a fair amount of noise from the SEC and from the press suggesting that analysts have been serving more masters than appear to meet the eye," said Herbert Milstein, a lawyer at Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld & Toll, which specializes in shareholder suits.

Flawed analyst practices are "one of the things that the SEC and plaintiffs' lawyers will be focusing on" for the next few years, he said. Cohen, Milstein is considering whether to bring its own suits against analysts, Milstein said.

So far, just two firms—Schiffrin & Barroway and Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman & Herz—have brought suits.

"I don't expect it's going to be a vast number of cases, but I could be wrong," said Fred T. Isquith, a lawyer with Wolf.

The best-known—and most feared—firm in the field of shareholder lawsuits, Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach, hasn't gotten into the game yet.

Steep hurdles

Plaintiffs so far have not gone beyond excerpts from research reports and press clipping in trying to prove their claims analysts defrauded investors. That means the claims may fail to pass muster with the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, a federal law that "heightens pleading standards for federal securities law class actions," Smith said.

Other barriers include proving that aggrieved investors suffered damages by relying on Meeker's research, and convincing a judge to certify a class of these investors.

Even if plaintiffs prove analysts like Meeker deliberately set out to trick investors, they would need to provide further evidence to establish damages.

The court would have to determine "to what extent did (Meeker's) recommendations actually influence the investor to buy" the shares, and "to what extent (did she) actually influence the price of the securities," said Henry T.C. Hu, a law school professor at the University of Texas.

The plaintiffs are likely "to allege that (Meeker's) behavior is particularly bad or that because of her prominence people would rely more on her recommendations," he said.

Seeking class action status

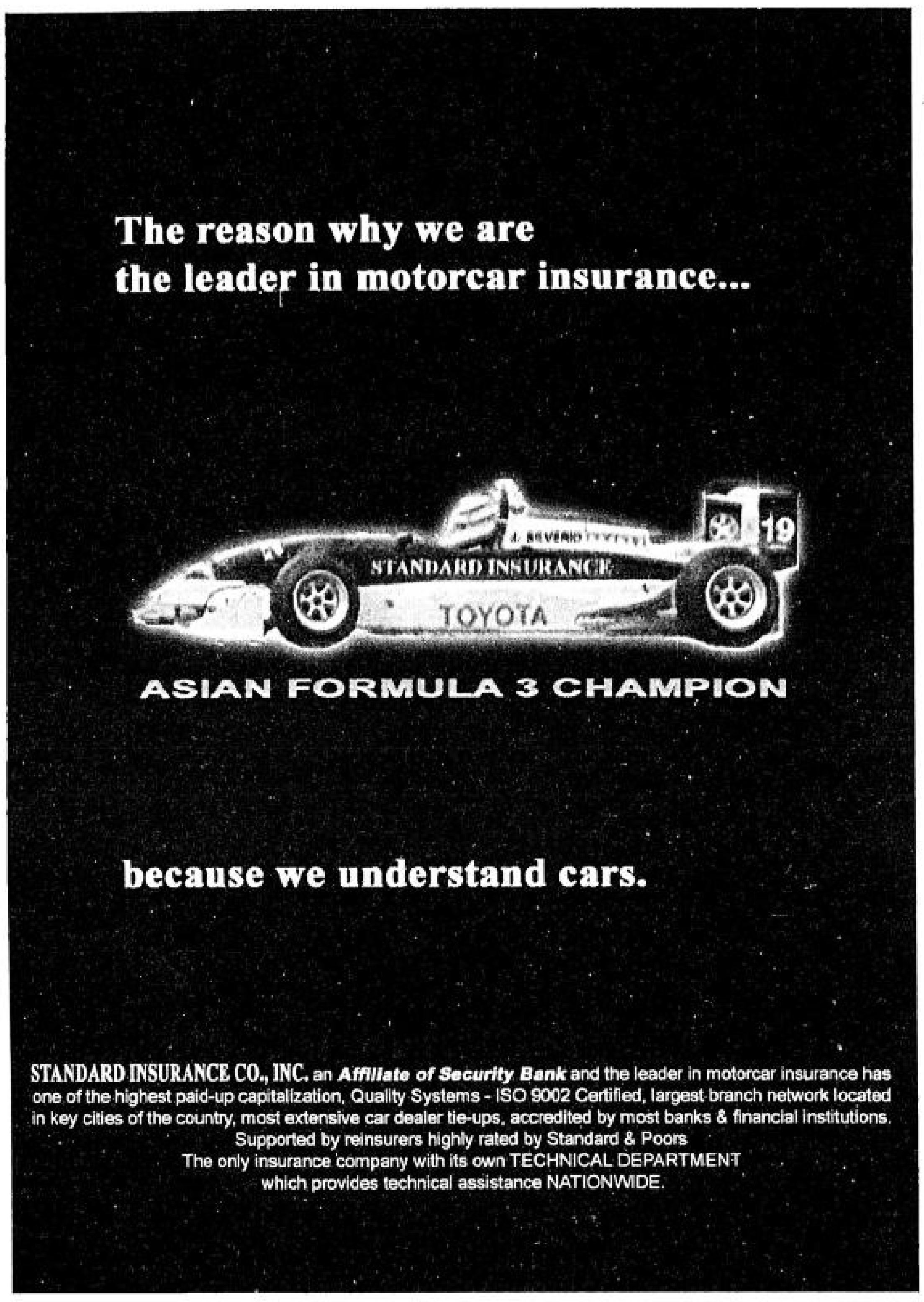
The first step for plaintiffs' lawyers, however, is to win class action status for their claims, because it gives them additional credibility and may bring the Wall Street firms to the bargaining table.

In addition, if the cases "aren't certified as a class action, then it's not as lucrative for plaintiffs' lawyers," said Hu said. A judge would need to to determine "to what extent does the class of people have a common fact pattern," to certify a class, he said.

That's going to take time. The lawsuits "could get heard anywhere from two months to a year" from their filing, said Smith. "It depends on what happens, whether multiple complaints are brought by different law firms ... the way these cases proceed is not that rapid," he said.

If class action suits survive a motion to dismiss, then they are likely to be "settled because the burden of discovery is tremendous," he said. That's when companies typically ask, "'don't we have insurance firms?'," Smith said.

Reuters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Execs witness evolution of local currency

(From page C5)

revolutionary fever was spreading across Manila. The Spanish government, thus, issued counterstamps to obliterate revolutionary inscriptions on the coins.

The first counterstamps had "Manila" and the dates 1828,1829 or 1830. On the reverse were the words "Rehabilitated by the King, Our Lord Don Fernando VII" surrounding the coat of arms of Spain.

To resolve the monetary crisis plaguing the economy, a mint called Casa de Moneda de Manila was established by royal decree and inaugurated in 1861. Gold coins of 0.875 fineness were issued with the name "Filipinas" on the reverse.

Coins from this era are rare because it was not able to issue too many coins due to reasons ranging from breakdown in machinery to corruption of mint employees or fears of bankruptcy.

In 1896, a revolution against Spain broke out. General Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed Philippine Independence and during this short period, the new government struck two version fo copper coins, both dated 1899 and bearing the legend "Republica Filipina" and denominated dos centimos de peso.

When the Americans took over the Philippines, it established a new monetary system and coins called "conant coins" after Charles A. Conant, an American monetary export.

Not long after the issuance of the first Conant coins, silver prices started to rise and coins were smuggled out of the country.

The American authorities discontinued the minting of the 1906 peso and decided to recall and recoin them. As a result, very few of the original 1906 Pesos survived the melting pot. They are now rarer than the scarce 1904 Peso. It is the rarest and most sought after among the US-Philippine coins.

When the reins of power in a transition phase under the Philippine commonwealth, a set of three silver coins dated 1936 was issued. These were in use until 1958. During the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos, these coins were replaced with a new set in different metal alloys.

Coins were locally minted from 1978 by the Central Bank's Security Printing Plant, Gold Refinery and Mint. Toward the close of the Ramos administration, the Central Bank, reconstituted as the Bangko Sentral, recalled the various coins issued under the Marcos, the Aquino and the Ramos regimes.

They issued a uniform set of new coins, which are still in use today. *Tina Arceo-Dumlao*

(Rare Gold barter rings from the pre-Hispanic era to Philippine coins from the Spanish and American periods are on exhibit at the Ayala Museum's Ma'l Room until Aug. 31 as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the Bank of the Philippine Islands. The exhibit was mounted in cooperation with The Philippine Numismatic and Antiquarian Society.)

Twilight. . .

(From page C3)

the oligarchs. But we have always held that the power of the oligarchy derives not from its shrewd use of its power and influence but from the fatal misperception of significant sectors of society as to their true self-interest.

This point could best be illustrated by a famous incident related by a sociologist. This sociologist wrote that he was invited to a party in an exclusive subdivision. The residence of the host was so vast; it included a cockfight arena. At this party, even a cockfight was staged, with the host pitting his fighting cock against those of his equally prepared guests.

Society of classes

The fighting was, of course accompanied by heavy betting among the rich spectators. By chance, the sociologist noticed a group of drivers avidly watching the fight. They watched as their masters lost in one bet, the equivalent of their wages in a year.

Surely, thought the sociologist, they would be highly resentful of their masters who probably pampered their fighting cocks more than their drivers.

Much to his surprise, he found the drivers enthusiastically rooting for their masters. There were no traces of resentment, simply of pride and admiration for their masters. For this commitment to their masters' interest, their only expectation is that crumbs *(balato)* will be thrown their way.

The sociologist termed this phenomenon "vertical identification". As opposed to "horizontal identification" where the drivers would identify with their fellow drivers or with the lower class, they, the lower class, identified with the upper class.

We would argue that the tenacious hold of the oligarchs is rooted in the vertical identification of the lower and middle classes with the upper classes. Moreover, the leaders of the lower class, and the labor leaders of the middle class, the ideologues, also identified their interests with those of the upper class despite the compelling evidence to the contrary.

But that is now changing. In our view, the First Asian Crisis has become the psychological trauma that has shocked the different sectors of society to the realization that their self-interest did not coincide with those of the oligarchy.

Asian crisis

When the crisis struck and the corporate ships started sinking, there was a mad scramble for lifeboats. Much to their chagrin, the poor and the middle class realized that there was just enough room in the lifeboats for the oligarchs.

The labor force was laid off and the management was downsized. The savings of the middle class lodged in bank deposits, commercial papers and stocks were wiped out while leaving the majority stockholders enjoying the same lifestyle as before the crisis.

This bitter realization found its political expression in the Puwersa ng Masa. Through former President Joseph Estrada and his surrogates, the poor were reminded of their dire error in confusing the interest of the rich with their own interest.

No more would they accept that price hikes in food, in energy, in water and in housing are necessary and for the good of all.

The political leaders presented with this new political reality are forgetting their political debts and remembering their political priority—popularity. Out of political necessity, they have denied applications for rate increases no matter how justified or tempting.

The poor have been figuratively cast into the open seas of poverty to fend for themselves, the middle class have a more viable option of swimming to other more hospitable shores.

They are taking the option of emigration. Driven by their concern that a society composed of an unenlightened upper class and a desperate lower class will not provide a bright future for their children, they have decided to emigrate.

Labor leaders

Ironically, the last holdouts to the misperception that the interest of the oligarchs and the rest of society are one are the labor lenders and the ideologues.

Our labor leaders presented the incongruous sight of making common cause with American labor unions in Seattle. The American labor unions were protesting against globalization as this would result in American jobs being lost to developing countries like the Philippines.

Instead of seeing the additional jobs for the Philippines that would result from such exodus, the Filipino labor leaders chose to see this as the unwelcome entry of the American multinationals that would overwhelm the Filipino corporations.

This preference for Filipino to multinational corporations persists despite the overwhelming evidence that multinationals treat their labor force better than the local firms do.

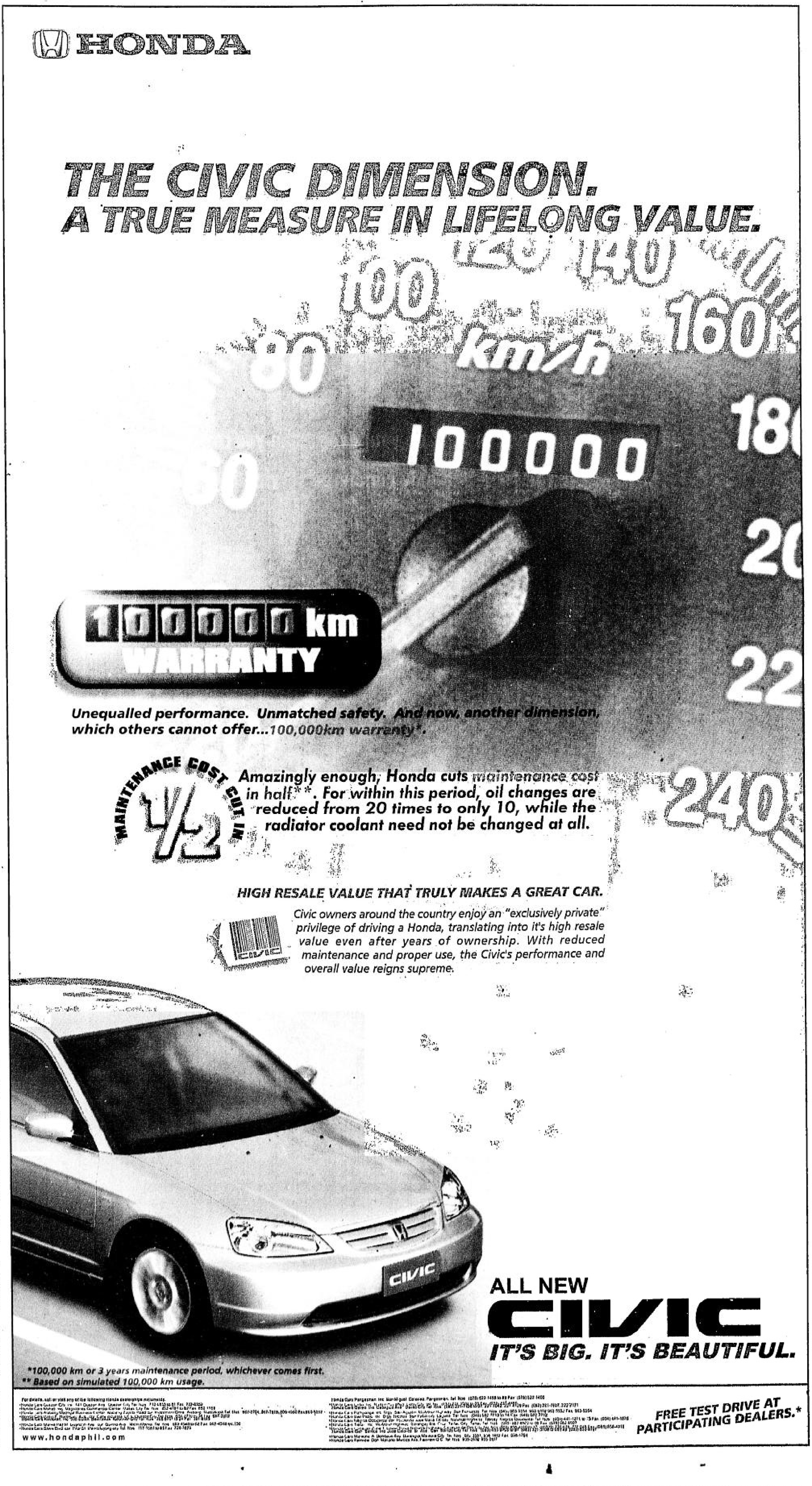
The ideologues are in a greater quandary. Schooled in the inevitability of class struggle, they must have been dismayed that an unschooled and corrupt politician and not them could gain the confidence and command the allegiance of the masses.

Left out by the Edsa I revolution, they vowed not to be left out of Edsa II. And so, they are now in the uneasy position of being junior partners in political institutions dominated by the oligarchy.

Moreover, they must be troubled that the oligarchs are using their slogans and their banners to repel the tide of globalization. As one oligarch has noted, no other group is as dedicated, as articulate and as cheap as these unwitting shock troops of the oligarchy.

But we submit, we are seeing the twilight of the oligarchs. The First Asian crisis has revealed their financial vulnerability and more importantly their isolation from the rest of society. When the Second Asian Crisis comes, we shall see their replacement by the multinationals.

How we shall cope with the Second Asian Crisis and the new reality that will emerge should be pith and core of the discussions of our policy analysts and advocates. *(Prof. Limlingan is from the Center of Development Management of the Asian Institute of Management.)*



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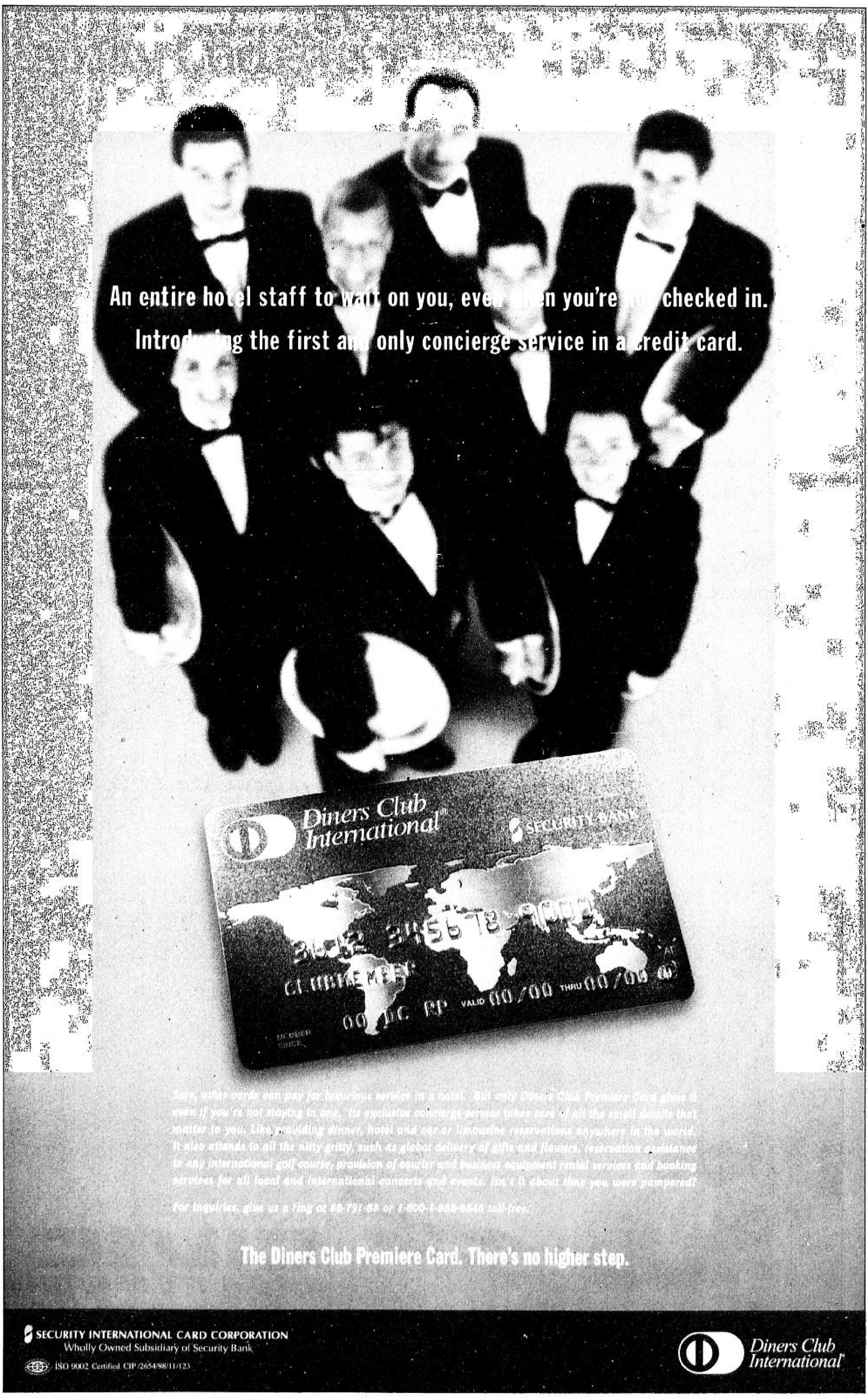

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Using phones to ring up more sales

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH the Philippines being the "text messaging capital of the world," contributing roughly 20 percent of the world's daily text messages, wireless service providers have gone out of their way to create SMS (short messaging service)-based applications as a tool to attract more subscribers as well as to ring up more sales.

Ring tones, logos, games

It started with ring tones, logos and games that subscribers can download using the wonders of text messaging. Then more useful applications such as news and information, traffic updates, movie schedules and the like came out.

Now, some of the country's most conservative institutions have also jumped onto the electronic bandwagon.

Mobile banking is now one of top wireless services providers Globe Telecom and Smart Communications Inc.'s neophyte killer applications.

How it began

"The availability of technology made it possible for us to come up with this service," Globe assistant vice president for marketing Nicanor Santiago III said.

In the case of Philippine mobile banking pioneer Smart Communications Inc., the company has already been thinking of emphasizing wireless services like mobile banking as soon as it entered the GSM (global system for mobile communications) market in 1999.

"It was one of our first strategies. We wanted to use the data capability of GSM for value-added services. Smart Money and mobile banking came out of those thinking sessions," Smart's spokesperson Ramon Isberto said.

He said it took Smart a year to put together the company's mobile banking network.

"The hardest thing about it was developing relationships with the banks. Banks are very conservative institutions. They usually have a resistance to new and unfamiliar things. It takes a lot of effort to win their trust," he said.

Right now, Smart has around 14 member banks and non-bank institutions, some of which have already been approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and some with pending applications for BSP approval.

Globe, on the other hand, being fairly new in the mobile banking arena, has only four partner-banks as of this time.

BSP regulations

But having a mobile banking infrastructure does not make it automatic for Globe and Smart to operate its mobile banking network.

The BSP must first recognize the security of the service provider's network and partner banks still have to seek BSP approval.

BSP Circular No. 269 contains the guidelines for electronic banking activities in the country.

The network should have stringent security measures: authentication, non-repudiation, authorization, integrity and confidentiality.

Only upon BSP approval can a bank be commercially launched as a partner bank of a mobile banking service provider.

Santiago said this slows down the expansion of mobile banking in the country, but he believes the BSP is only right in implementing such strict standards.

"This is mainly for customer protection because wireless access is new in the country. Also, people have to be aware of the security measures that our banking system employs," he said.

For Smart, M-commerce business development head Alex Ibasco said their system is generally focused on security so the BSP already trusts them, and partner banks' applications for approval do not take that long to process.

"The BSP already knows our system. They know our degree of commitment. We look at money as something precious to people so it can't be taken lightly," he said.

Main differentiators

According to Smart, the security of its network is what differentiates it from the competitor.

"We encrypt each transaction before it leaves the phone. Only the bank can open and see it. Smart also runs the system itself, all the way to the banks. Our data center is in-house, just like a bank's, so there is no third-party intervention," Ibasco said.

He said these tight security procedures make it possible for their subscribers to make unenrolled payments.

"Like ATMs, encryption makes tapping into an account nearly impossible," he said.

Globe, on the other hand, boasts of access convenience as its edge over Smart.

"Our mobile banking works both on SMS and WAP (wireless application protocol) and this can be accessed through any Globe handset, without changing SIM (subscriber identification module) cards," Santiago said.

Why go mobile?

Santiago said the main goal of Globe's mobile banking service is to convert ATM (automated teller machine) functions into something that can be done over a subscriber's mobile phone, anytime and anywhere.

"Just the functions that don't require any monetary transactions because you can't get money over your mobile phone," Santiago said in jest.

These services include balance inquiry, bills payment, funds transfer and foreign exchange rate information.

"We want our subscribers to think of mobile banking as an extension of their ATM as well as an alternative to landline telephone banking. We want to provide them an alternative mode of spending convenience," he said.

For Smart, they want mobile banking to have the same impact as the cellular phone.

"It's a very practical tool. For instance, you can be a parent in Hawaii who can't go to a bank because of hectic schedules. Your child calls you up telling you he needs to enroll. All you have to do is load money into his Smart Money account and you won't have to worry anymore," Ibasco related.

And because of Smart's sophisticated system, the parent can track where the money goes.

"After your child uses his Smart money card to pay for bills, you'll get a message telling you which establishments the money went to," he explained.

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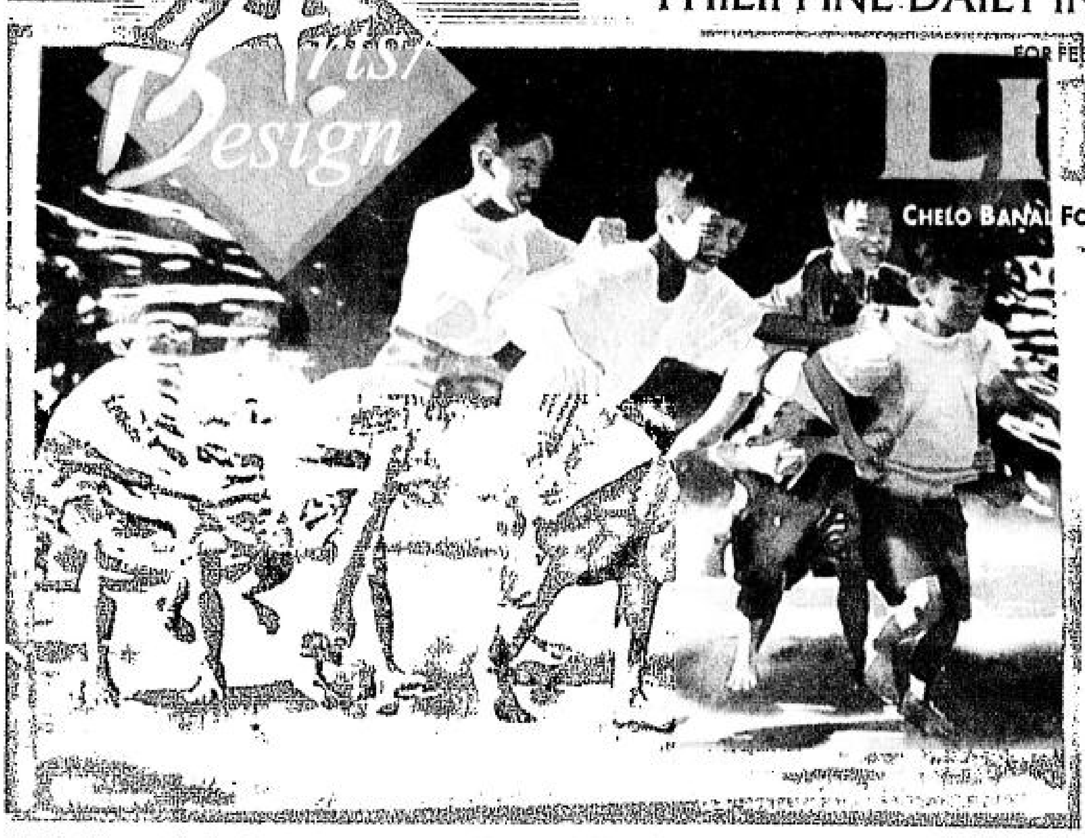

ONE of the entries in the ArtPetron competition on children's games

Newest art competition opens a floodgate

By Constantino C. Tejero

IN THE LATE afternoon of July 25, the security guards of Petron Megaplaza in Makati City panicked. They saw a throng of young people milling outside, carrying what looked like a lot of placards.

The guards thought there was going to be a strike of students. They immediately called up their superiors and asked for reinforcement, and readied themselves to put up a barricade.

It was actually the deadline for submission of

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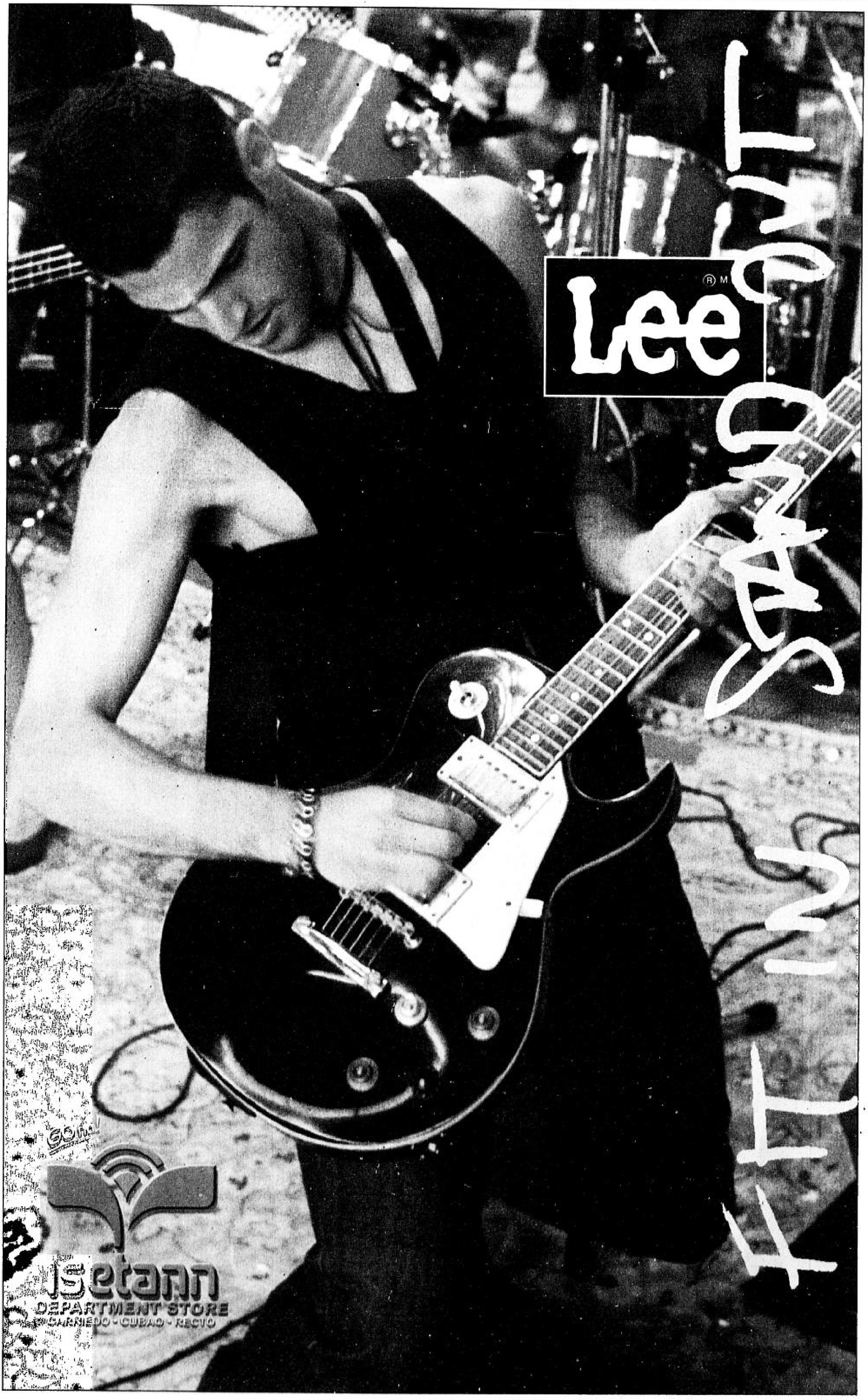
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OUR WARMEST greetings to the Philippine Marketing Association as it spearheads the celebration of the 29th National Marketing Week with a Trade and Consumer Exhibit scheduled on Aug. 20-23 at the Glorietta Activity Center under the theme "Millennium Marketing Shift II, Beyond Breakthroughs."

It is heartening to note that, as the voice and pulse of the marketing sector, the PMA continues to serve its indispensable role in nation building. With its active wide-based membership and strong established linkages, the PMA is at the vantage position to rally all marketing executives, practitioners, professionals and companies towards mapping out appropriate, relevant, responsive and timely plans and strategies that will enable the sector to meet head-on the emerging challenges of global competition.

DTI and PMA must continue to work together in addressing market inefficiencies—examining price points along the value chain from manufacturer or provider all the way down to the consumer particularly for basic items such as food, medicines and the like—using price as an indicator for inefficiencies. The objective is to make the domestic supply chain more efficient by fostering if not inducing competition. Where the business sector is unable to address these issues due to its inability to balance priorities between profit factors and social values, then collaborative efforts to address these inefficiencies are in order.

We are also confident that the PMA will pursue the thrusts of offering only top quality products and services that comply with product standards, providing their clientele with the best that the market can offer, and widening the options available to Filipino consumers. Likewise, we hope that the PMA will continue to support government efforts to promote consumer protection and welfare so that consumers get only the best value their money can buy. All these are imperative if we are to achieve any meaningful paradigm shift in the marketing sector.

To the PMA, our sincere congratulations and best wishes.

MAR ROXAS
Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry

GREETINGS to the marketing profession as we commemorate our 29th National Marketing Week celebration!

The significant role of the marketing profession in the business sector was recognized with the Presidential Proclamation 1135, which declares every last week of July as National Marketing Week. Twenty-nine years hence, the industry has grown by leaps and bounds—not only in number, but also in its achievements.

The Philippine Marketing Association spearheads the National Marketing Week celebration and embarks on some of the biggest projects to commemorate the event. Through the years, there has been growing interest and participation from the industry, as well as from allied organizations. To date, I am very pleased to note that the National Marketing Week serves a convergence of marketing practitioners, the academe, as well as students.

This year, we chose to celebrate the event differently by conducting the first Stratmark lecture series for the future marketing practitioners, the students, and for our partner in the industry, the academe. The lecture series was mainly conceptualized to help them hone their skills and to encourage them to play a more pro-active role in the profession. The response was overwhelming. Thank you for your support to the association! I would like to give due recognition to the speakers who unselfishly shared their knowledge and skills, our allied association, Association of Marketing Educators who helped promote the lecture series, and the student organizations under the FJMA umbrella.

The latest staging of the annual Trade & Consumer Exhibits, our culminating event for the NMW, is again a resounding success. Sincerest thanks for all those who participated. I hope that you will continue to consider PMA's events as the ideal venue to create visibility and generate sales for your products and services.

Mabuhay!

JOSE JESUS F. ROCES
President, Philippine Marketing Association

I WOULD like to wholeheartedly thank everyone who participated in this year's National Marketing Week celebration. All of you have contributed to its success.

It indeed was an honor for me to again be part of this year's National Marketing Week organizing committee. I have to admit that it was more challenging, demanded more work and commitment, and enervating.

The biggest challenge posed upon the committee was to make this year's National Marketing Week "different." Based on a consensus among the PMA board, it was a unanimous decision to stage an enriching and worthwhile activity for the students.and the academe. Thus, the Strategic Marketing lecture series came into place.

Initially, I had uncertainties whether we were capable of staging an event of such magnitude. But then, we knew a good product can sell itself. And it certainly did. We had more than 1,000 eager attendees who came to learn the latest in the marketing profession. I hope the event was worth your while and that you will put what you've learned into practice.

On the other hand, the major event of the NMW, the annual Trade and Consumer Exhibit, was a great venue for top companies and entrepreneurs to present their creative products and services they offer. The exhibit highlighted the ingenuity, craftsmanship and dedication to excellence of our businessmen and marketing practitioners.

Next year, the Philippine Marketing Association guarantees bigger projects for the National Marketing Week. Expect that the association will continue to uphold its mission to empower the Filipino marketer.

MAEYETH CAYABYAB
Director in charge, National Marketing Week

THE NATIONAL Marketing Week is a meaningful event that commemorates the marketing industry's past struggles and victories, as well as its boundless opportunities for growth in the future.

This is why our main events for the NMW, such as the Trade and Consumer Exhibit, aim to empower our marketing practitioners and make them realize the significant role they can play in revitalizing the economy. Likewise, we staged the first Strategic Marketing lecture series to inspire the students and the academe to continuously support the marketing industry. After all, they are among those who will shape the future of the marketing field.

I fervently hope that the NMW celebration experience has been enriching for everyone. We hope to see you all again next year.

Furthermore, I congratulate the NMW organizing committee and its allied partners for delivering a splendid job. The success of the NMW celebration was achieved through your collaborated efforts. A salute to you all!

BETH FLORES
Overall Chair, National Marketing Week

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National Marketing Week

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It's all about going beyond breakthroughs

THINK about it for a while, what comes next after breakthroughs? What follows after hitting our targets, capturing the most evasive account, and becoming the market leader? Will you now rest on your laurels?

In the circle of quality marketing and continuous improvement, beyond breakthroughs takes you back into the basics of planning innovations, of creating new values to your product, service and other offerings. It takes you back to your customer, finding what he needs, what he wants now. Beyond breakthroughs takes you to devising new strategies to win and retain the loyalty of customers. Beyond breakthroughs takes you to a new paradigm of business and marketing philosophy.

This year the Philippine Marketing Association celebrates National Marketing Week with significant events focused on harnessing new ideas and technologies, strategic partnerships and alliances to lead marketers into new standards of competitiveness.

PMA is proud to present its National Marketing Week Celebration 2001 with the theme "Millennium Marketing Shift II: Beyond Breakthroughs.

NMW: 29 years of growth and success

TWENTY-NINE years ago, the late President Ferdinand Marcos gave due recognition to the contribution of the marketing profession to the country's economic growth and issued the Presidential Proclamation No. 1135 which mandates every last week of July as the National Marketing Week (NMW).

Since then, the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA), the biggest assembly of marketing professionals and educators, has spearheaded numerous activities to commemorate this annual event. The National Marketing Week became an ideal venue for the annual convergence of marketing practitioners who convene to keep abreast with the changes and challenges facing the industry.

Every year, PMA adopts a theme for the National Marketing Week, which mirrors the pressing issues and concerns prevalent of the times. The NMW organizing committee leads the conceptualization and implementation of various projects aimed to enhance the knowledge of marketing practitioners as well as the academe and students.

This year, in the new millennium, the NMW celebration is bigger and grander. Dubbed as "Millennium Marketing Shift II, Beyond Breakthroughs," PMA encourages today's marketers to go beyond current trends in marketing and point toward greater heights by revitalizing marketing methods and innovate trailblazing breakthroughs.

The pinnacle of this year's NMW celebration is the Trade and Consumer Exhibit held at the Glorietta Activity Center from Aug. 20 to 23, 2001. The three-day exposition features the latest products, unique services and state-of-the-art technologies. Participated in by top corporations as well as up and coming companies, the exhibit showcases the ingenuity, craftsmanship and dedication to excellence of the Filipino marketer and businessmen.

As an allied activity, PMA conducted the first Strategic Marketing lecture series, a comprehensive seminar that features discussions on the latest trends and other relevant issues in today's marketing scene. This seminar focuses on marketing educators and students and their role in shaping the future of the marketing industry. This activity encourages them to continuously aspire for excellence and greater achievements.

Then and now, the NMW has been a venue where marketing practitioners, educators and students converge and exchange ideas, build new ties and create opportunities that will push the industry forward into the new millennium.

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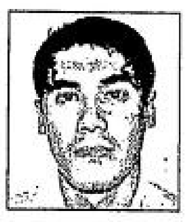

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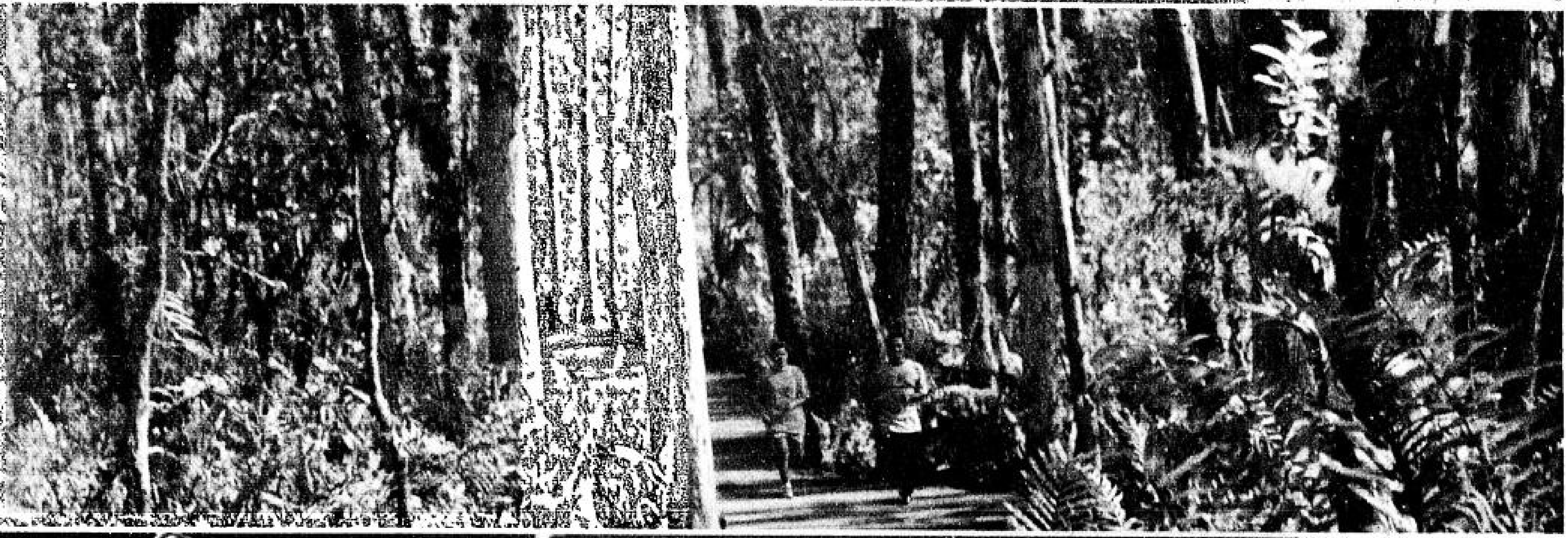

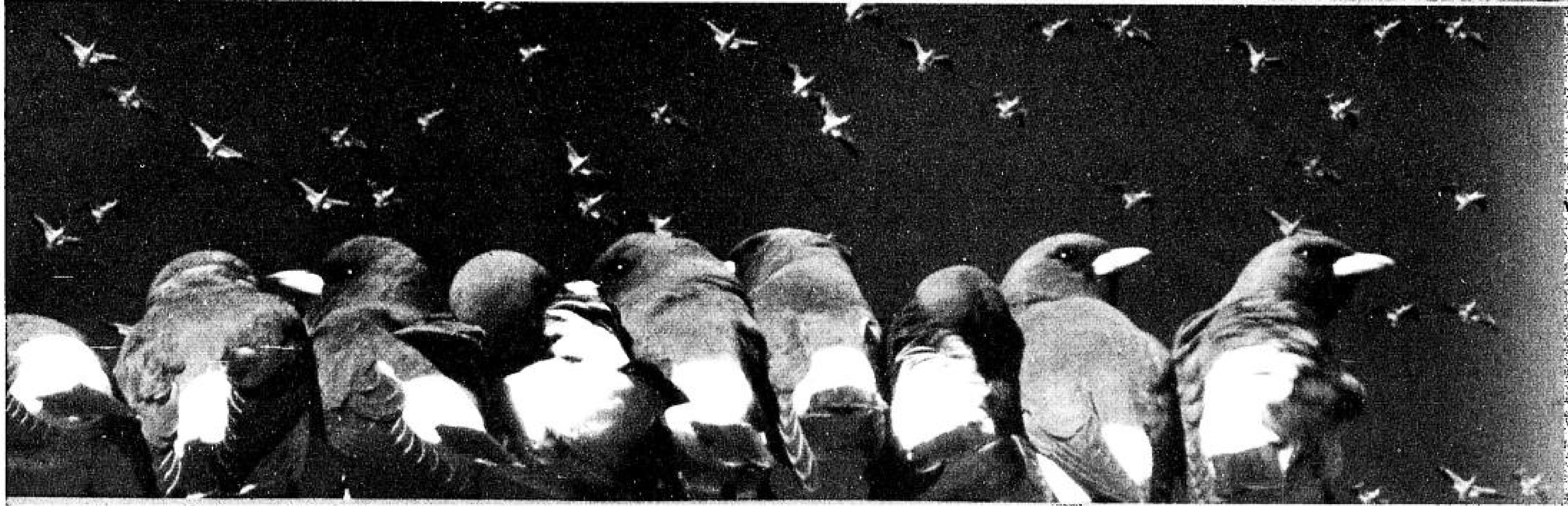

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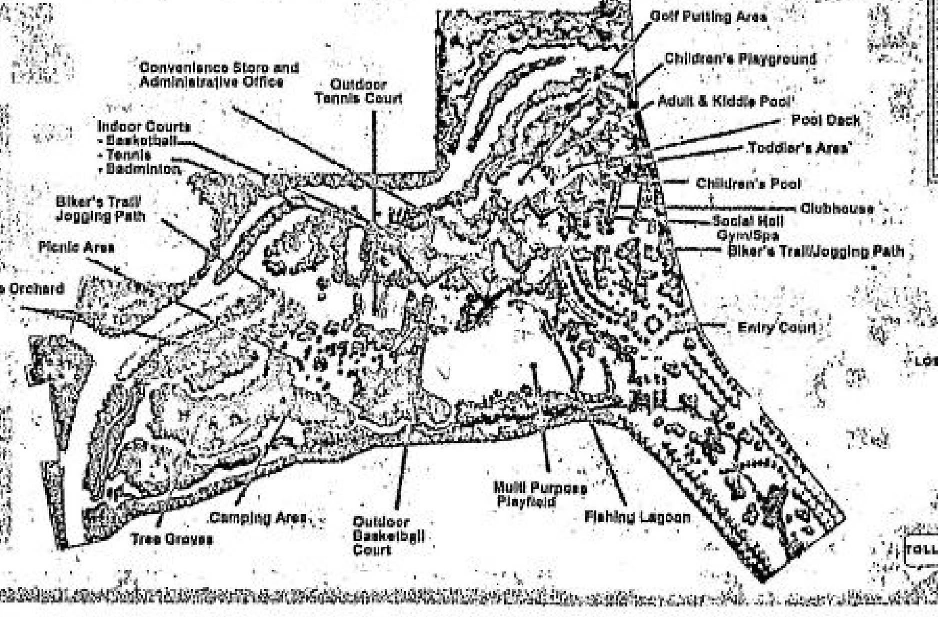
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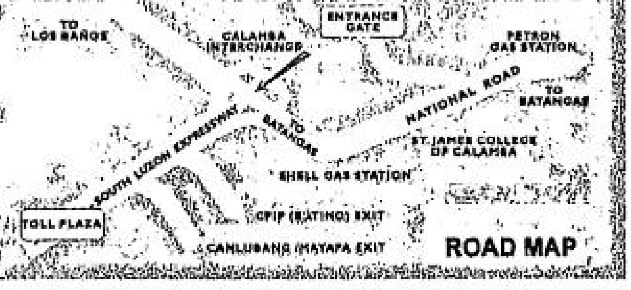
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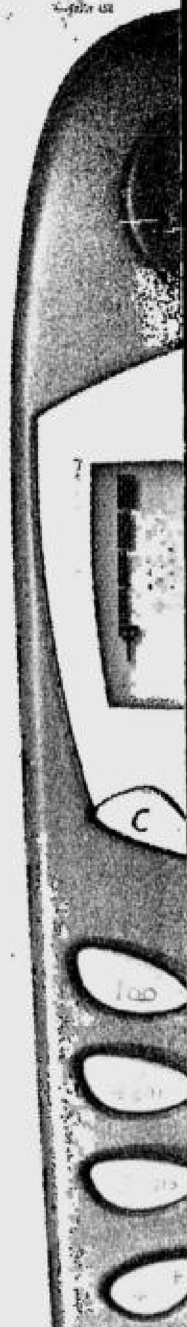

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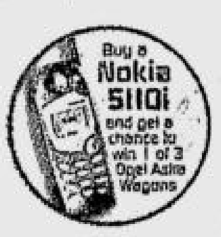
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9. If the winner is a minor, he/she must be accompanied by his/her parents/guardian when claiming the prize and both the minor and his/her parents/guardian should present a valid identification. The latter should also bring proof that he/she is the parent/guardian of the minor.
10. A free round trip ticket for two (2) to Singapore with free
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(60) day period from notification, the prize shall be for
All prizes are not convertible to cash.
13. Employees of Globe Telecom, Harrison Communication
and participating outlets, including their relatives up to the
from joining the car raffle.

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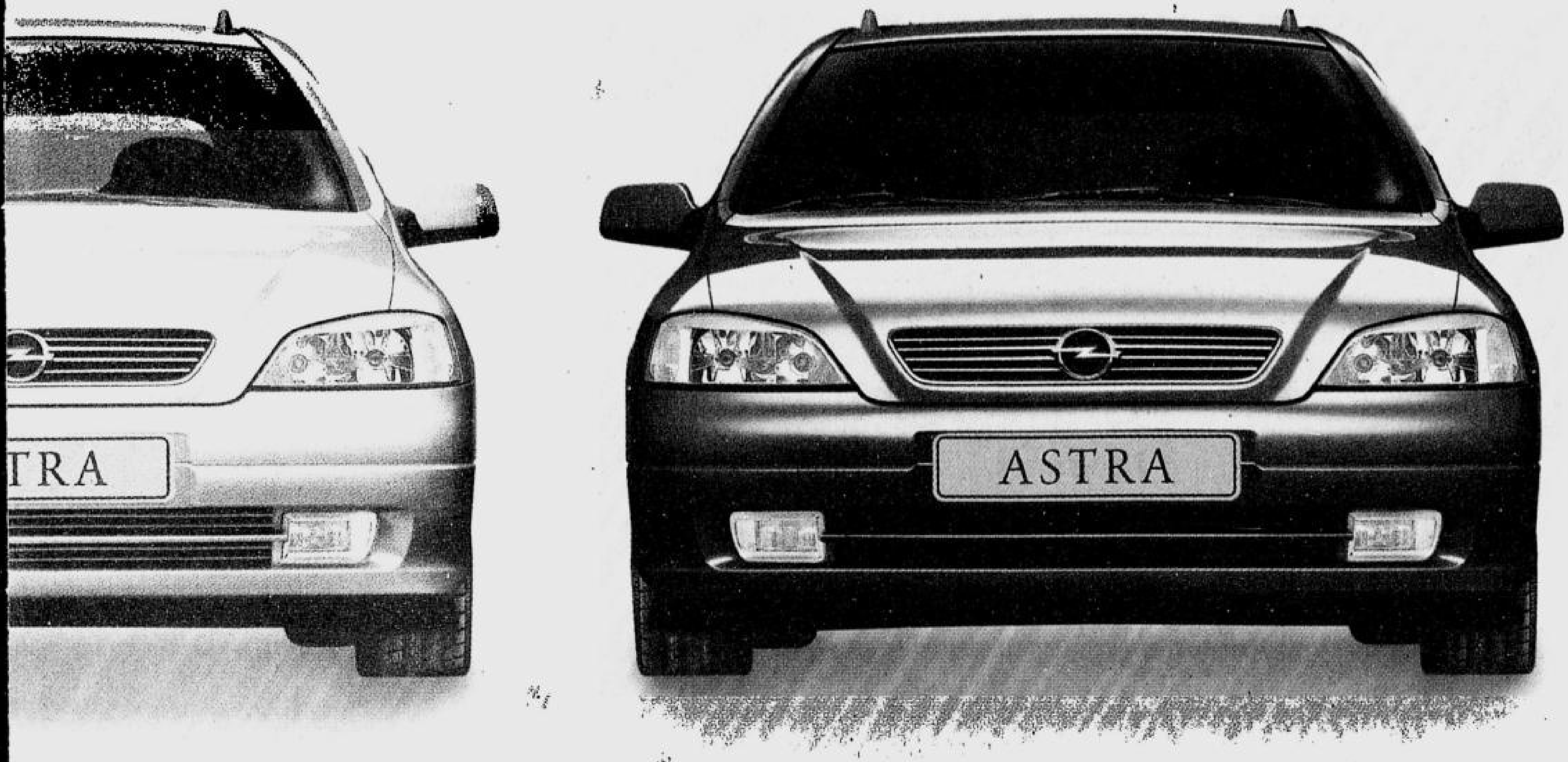

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10 Filipino pilgrims meet a Syrian visionary in Damascus

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

TEN Filipino pilgrims led by Msgr. Matt Garcia traveled to Damascus in Syria on Easter Tuesday this year and were able to meet Myrna Nazzour, a visionary to whom Our Lady of Soufanieh has been appearing since Nov. 27, 1982.

According to Monsignor Matt, Myrna saw at least 12 visions of Our Lady and 19 of our Lord Jesus. Myrna was born in 1964 to a Greek Catholic father and a Greek Orthodox mother. Her childhood was normal. She was an average student in government schools. She left college before she could complete the unified Syrian baccalaureate diploma.

Six months before the extraordinary happening, she married Nicolas Nazzour, a Greek Orthodox. Our Lady appeared to Myrna on Nov. 27, 1982 and her message was about the unity of peoples of all religions.

Afterward, the icon of the Perpetual Help, which her husband had bought in Bolivia, started producing oil. Used in healing, the oil cured many people.

The oil would later appear on the ground of the terrace where Our Lady had appeared. It also flowed from a three-dimensional painting of the Holy Virgin; a prayer book; the wall; the cotton inside a box which would be distributed to sick people; and a medal around Myrna's neck.

Monsignor Matt celebrated Mass with a Greek Orthodox priest at the house of the visionary. It was attended by the other nine pilgrims: Bon Gavino Gautier, Ed Chua, Norma Chua, Cora Gonzales, Irene Gonzales, Joan Bunuan, Lorena de la Cruz, Emma Altura and Girlie Felizardo.

The news of the apparitions in Damascus has reached people of all faiths in France, Canada, the United States and Australia.

Myrna is also said to have suffered the stigmata of the Lord's Passion on Good Fridays.

The pilgrims later traveled to the Church of St. Ananias near the street called Straight where Saul of Tarsus (St. Paul) was converted. They also went to Jordan where St. John the Baptist baptized Christ. Monsignor Matt celebrated Mass here.

Those who wish to meet the visionary Myrna Nazzour in Damascus and other holy places included in the Easter trip can call Emma Altura of Travel Quest at 896-7345/6430.

THE VISIONARY Myrna Nazzour (center) with pilgrims Norma Chua, Bon Gavino Gautier and Cora Gonzales

US seers here for Marian talks

DR. Mary Jane Even and Franz Joseph Keiler, American visionaries, are in town to give talks on the Virgin Mary on Aug. 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m., at the Holy Family Chapel on Orchard Road in Libis, QC. Please call Redeemer Plan Office at 722-4480 (Maritoni Fran) or Col. Charlie Beloso at 525-0132.

'Salingoy 2001' in Bacacay, Albay

SALINGOY is a Bicol word meaning "looking back with gratitude." This is the theme of the Marian centennial celebration marking the feast of Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados in Bacacay, Albay on Aug. 31, 9 a.m., with a concelebrated Mass.

A grand reunion of all Bacacay clergy will follow. On Aug. 22, nine days before the fiesta, the image of Our Lady will head a procession from her shrine to the main parish.

It seems that Bacacay has produced many priests—all 70 are still living. What a blessed town! Msgr. Cris Bernarte, whom I met when he was still parish priest in Tabaco, Albay, gave me this info.

Jubanons gather for Mass

METRO Manila residents who are from Juban, Sorsogon will gather for a Thanksgiving Mass on Sept. 1, 2 p.m., at the Janssen Hall of the SVD Seminary on E. Rodriguez Avenue, QC.

Afterward, there will be a discussion on how to raise more funds for the continued restoration of St. Anthony de Padua Parish church in Juban. Call Ira Reyes at 412-2959.

Concelebrating the Mass will be Fathers Luis Buenaobra, Sabino Fulo, Ed Guarin, Tim Guarin and Atilano Corcuera.

St. Anthony image stolen

IT is very sad to know that the old image of St. Anthony de Padua in Juban was stolen two years ago. First, the head was taken. And then the robbers came back for the body of the saint. The image is unique in that St. Anthony holds the Child Jesus in front of him. If you know anybody who has that image, kindly report it to Ira Reyes at 412-2959.

Colegio de Santa Philomena

I AM thankful that a reader has dedicated her school in Pulilan, Bulacan to St. Philomena in May 1998. Formerly called Zensville Montessori, the school has been given a new name by school directress-owner Zenaida C. Santos. Rightly so because St. Philomena is the patron of youth and children.

Lately, my friends and I have been experiencing the efficacy of St. Philomena's intercession.

Mary Help of Christians over Radio Veritas

THE ARCHCONFRATERNITY of Mary Help of Christians is an association of lay people founded by St. John Bosco on April 18, 1869 in Turin, Italy. Its mission is to spread the devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and Mary Help of Christians.

Such Marian devotion found its way in the country through the zealous works of Archbishop William Piani, a Salesian, when he was assigned as Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines from 1922-1946.

In 1956, a group of devotees organized the group's first chapter in Makati. From then on a number of chapters have been founded in Metro Manila and the provinces. The feast of Mary Help of Christians is celebrated on May 24.

Every 24th of the month, devotees flock to its national shrine in Betterliving Subdivision, Parañaque. Members of the archconfraternity work hand in hand with the Salesian family in carrying out the charism of Don Bosco and his predilection for the young.

Join them as they hold the Novena on the Air to Mary Help of Christians every third Monday of the month, 9:30 p.m. on Radio Varitas (846 khz).

Our Lady of Manaoag visit

THE PILGRIM image of Our Lady of Manaoag is at the Harrison Plaza chapel until 10 a.m. on Aug. 26. It will then be brought to Our Lady of Hope Parish on Road 3, Pag-asa, QC.

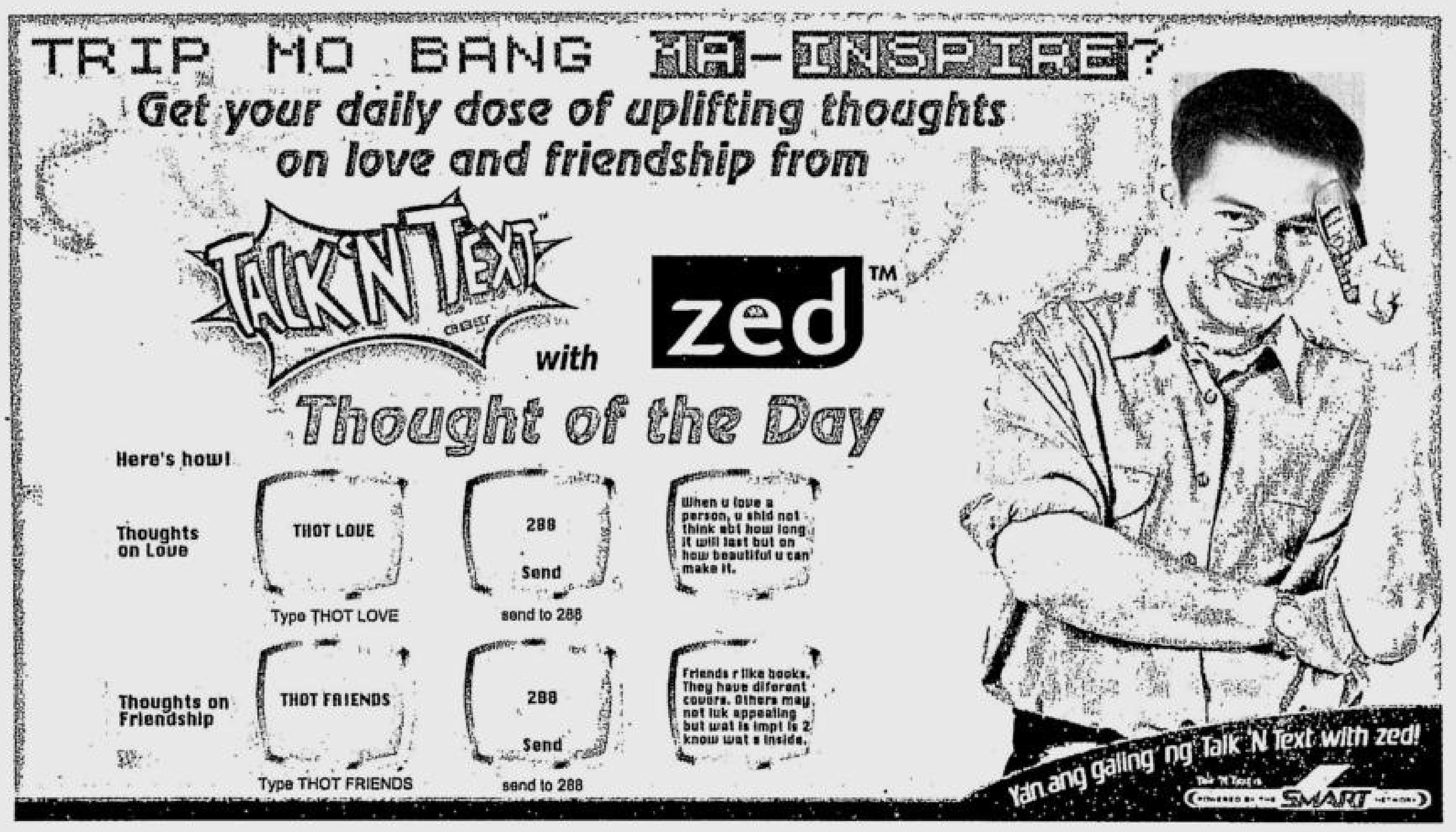
Father Rustia is chaplain

FR. Teofilo Rustia will be the chaplain for the retreat pilgrimage to the Holy Land and the church of Sta. Rita de Cascia on Sept. 15. Those interested to join can call Elenita Grande at (0918) 729-4610 or 631-9571.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in El Nido

THE ST. Francis of Assisi Parish in El Nido, Palawan is celebrating its centennial anniversary on Oct. 3. Msgr. Ed Juanich, parish priest, has asked for help in the restoration of the church

10 FILIPINO/ p.D8



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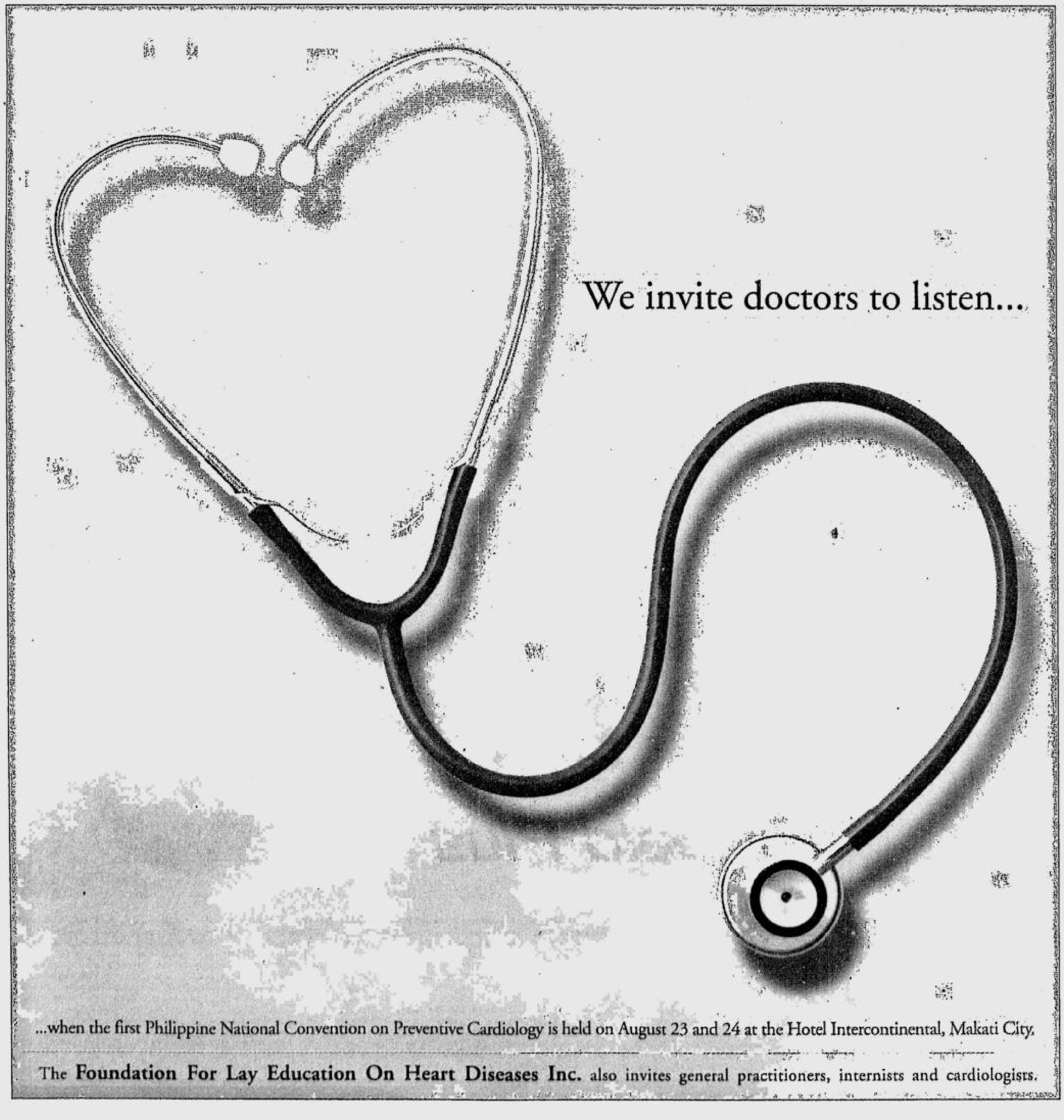

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Foundation For Lay Education On Heart Diseases Inc.

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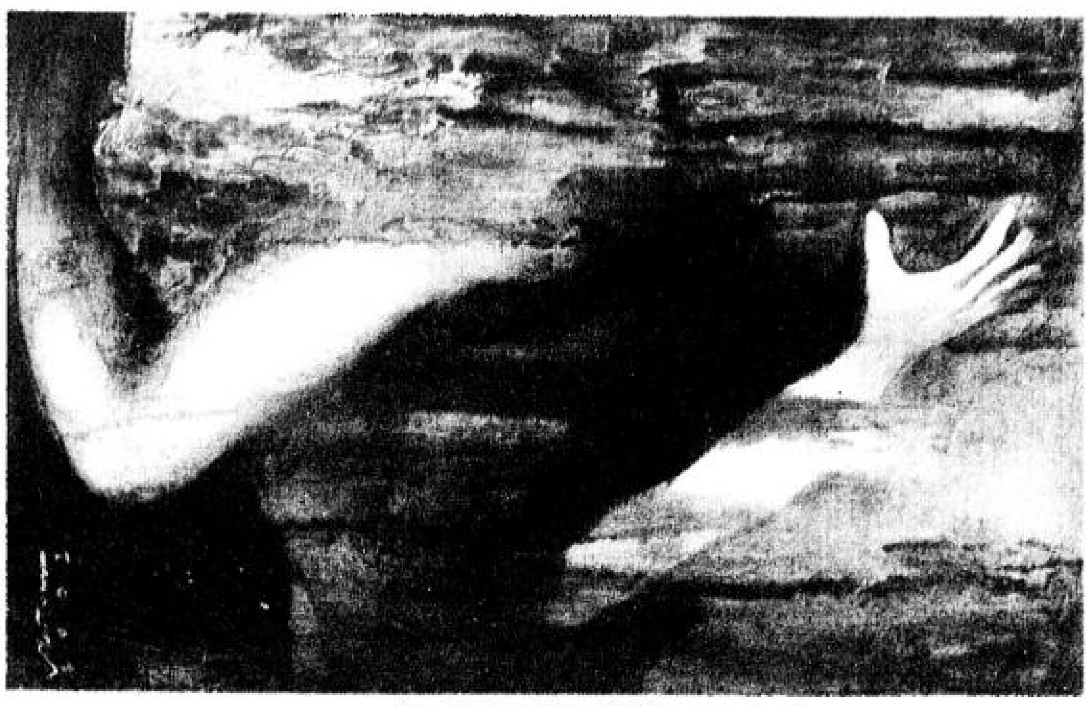
Mendez and Ventura at Drawing Room; Robles at Duemila; new art mag

JOEL Mendez, a physician-artist making a name in the art scene for his innovative approaches to art-making, is showing his latest works, "Cat Woman," at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City. Call 897-6990/7877.

In the same venue, Ronaldo Ventura, a multiawarded young artist and faculty member of the UST College of Fine Arts and Design, is showing his latest works on paper until Sept. 5. Dubbed "The Other Side," the show underscores Ventura's preoccupation with the human figure. Distinct is the artist's surreal compositions.



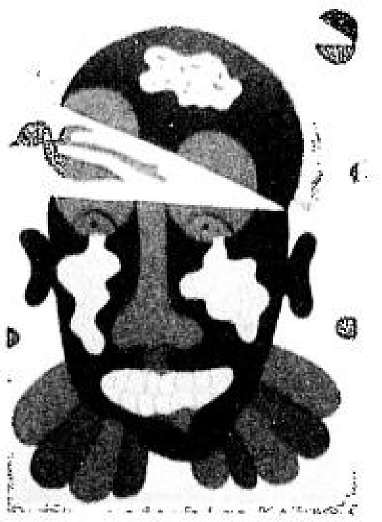
"THE OTHER Side," mixed media by Ronald Ventura at The Drawing Room

VISUAL ARTS

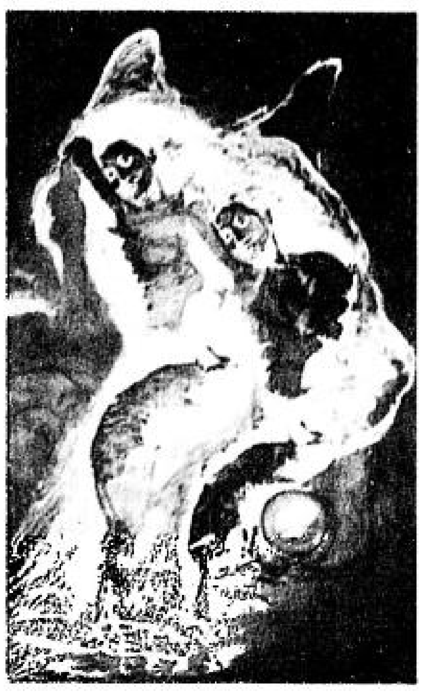
ROBLES AT GALLERIA DUEMILA. Abstractionist Roberto M.A. Robles will open "Eulogy. to the Filipino" tomorrow at the Galleria Duemila and Gallerie Y, (4/L SM Megamall). The works range from mixed media on canvas to freestanding sculptures in black granite. Call 831-9990 or 634-3261.

NEW MAGAZINE. IS Magazine, a compilation of original works by Juan Alcazaren, Roberto Chabet, Nona Garcia, Gerardo Tan and Wire Tuazon, will be launched on Aug. 25 at Art Center, SM Megamall. Five copies of IS and miniature artworks and collages by the artists and by Dada Docot and Brian Sergio will be sold at a special launching prize. The magazine aims to become a spatial site or mini gallery for miniature artworks.

ROLDAN AT GREEN PAPAYA. Norberto Roldan is holding "Faith on the Periphery" at the Green Papaya Art Projects (304 Sterten Place Condominium, 116 Maginhawa St., Teachers Village East, QC) until Aug. 31. Roldan also previews his new "Private Altars," a series which shall form part of the two-person show "Rituals of Devotion," with Alfredo Esquillo at the John Batten Gallery in Hong Kong next month. Call 927-3187.



"UNTITLED" by Henri Eteve is part of the exhibit "Abstract Prints" at Silahis Arts and Artifacts (3/F Glorietta 4). Call 728-4961 or 527-2113.



"CAT WOMAN I," mixed media by Joel Mendez at The Drawing Room

GUTIERREZ AT MANILA DOCTORS. Doctor-painter Romeo Gutierrez is holding a show of his acrylic and oil paintings dubbed "Touch of Nature" at the lobby of Manila Doctors Hospital, United Nations Avenue, Manila. The exhibit ends Aug. 22.

SCULPTURES AT HOTEL-INTER-CON. An artistic smorgasbord of eclectic forms and textures awaits art lovers at "Sculptures 2.2," featuring the works of 22 sculptors, at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila's Art Café, until Sept. 4. Artists include Jecky Alano, Gus Albor, Johnny Alcazaren, Ral Arrogante, Michael Cacnio, Robert Casalmer, Bobby Castillo, Allan Cosio, Henri Eteve, Honrado Fernandez, Dei Jardiniano, Ting Ping Lay, Julie Lluch, Pablo Mahinay, Antonio Mondejar, Impy Pilapil, Alma Quinto, Dan Raralio, Dr. Ton Raymundo, Claude Tayag, Sandra Torrijos and Mac Valdezco.

CARNEO AT GALLERY 8.12. Artist Boy Carneo lectures drawing and painting at Gallery 8.12 (Juana Complex 3A, Biñan, Laguna and Lipa City, Batangas). Call 698-2997/3001.

RUIZ IN JAPAN. Ronaldo Ruiz represented the Philippines in the 6th Nipaf Asian Performance Art Series and Summer Seminar 2001 in Japan from July 23 to Aug. 8. He held shows and performances at the Kyoto Art Complex 1928, Nagoya Mucho Syokudo Art Space, Tokyo Za Hall and Nagano Neon Hall and Lizuna Sanso Japan.

A Message from Hon. Roberto V. Rodriguez
Mayor

Greetings from the Municipality of Taytay, Northeastern Palawan!

Tourism is the foremost industry in Northern Palawan, as well as the rest of the province, due to its renowned pristine and protected environment, its natural charms, lush and virginal forests, inviting beaches and the abundance of marine wonders. However, the dastardly Abu-Sayaf incident that transpired at the South of Palawan has caused tremendous repercussions to the livelihood of Taytay. Palawan as it is, is basically a peaceful destination, and the recent kidnapping is considered an isolated incident. Aside from that, misinformation is being spread causing fears to prospective travelers to our destination.

It is at this point that I wish to reassure the public and the prospective foreign tourists of the safety of the destination. I have been coordinating closely with the military ranks, the national police, the barangay captains of Taytay, the local communities, and the private organizations and resort-owners such as Club Noah Isabelle, for the stringent protection of travelers. Security has already been beefed-up in all tourist spots and Club Noah Isabelle has likewise added to its security measure radar systems and other defense mechanisms. Furthermore, I will see to it that the general welfare and security measures of all tourists both local and foreign will be maintained by international standards.

In closing, your Municipal Government wishes to thank you for keeping the confidence and partnership in the conservation of our environment and economic development.

ROBERTO V. RODRIGUEZ
Mayor

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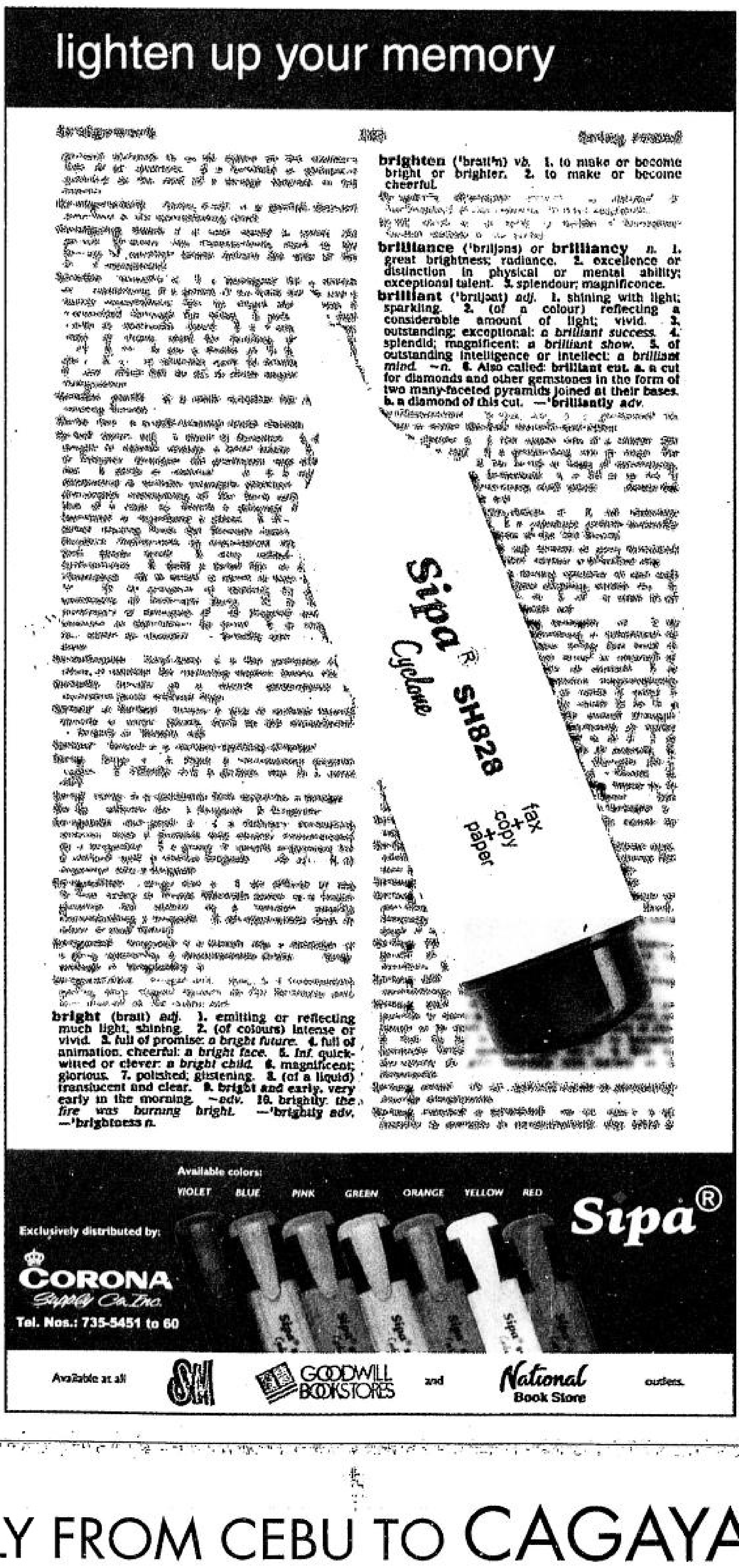

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brighten ('braɪt'n) *vb.* 1. to make or become bright or brighter. 2. to make or become cheerful.

brilliance ('brɪljəns) or **brilliancy** *n.* 1. great brightness; radiance. 2. excellence or distinction in physical or mental ability; exceptional talent. 3. splendour; magnificence.

brilliant ('brɪljənt) *adj.* 1. shining with light; sparkling. 2. (of a colour) reflecting a considerable amount of light; vivid. 3. outstanding; exceptional: *a brilliant success.* 4. splendid; magnificent: *a brilliant show.* 5. of outstanding intelligence or intellect: *a brilliant mind.* —*n.* 6. Also called: brilliant cut. a. a cut for diamonds and other gemstones in the form of two many-faceted pyramids joined at their bases. b. a diamond of this cut. —'brilliantly *adv.*

bright (braɪt) *adj.* 1. emitting or reflecting much light; shining. 2. (of colours) intense or vivid. 3. full of promise: *a bright future.* 4. full of animation; cheerful: *a bright face.* 5. *Inf.* quick-witted or clever: *a bright child.* 6. magnificent; glorious. 7. polished; glistening. 8. (of a liquid) translucent and clear. 9. bright and early. very early in the morning. —*adv.* 10. brightly: *the fire was burning bright.* —'brightly *adv.* —'brightness *n.*

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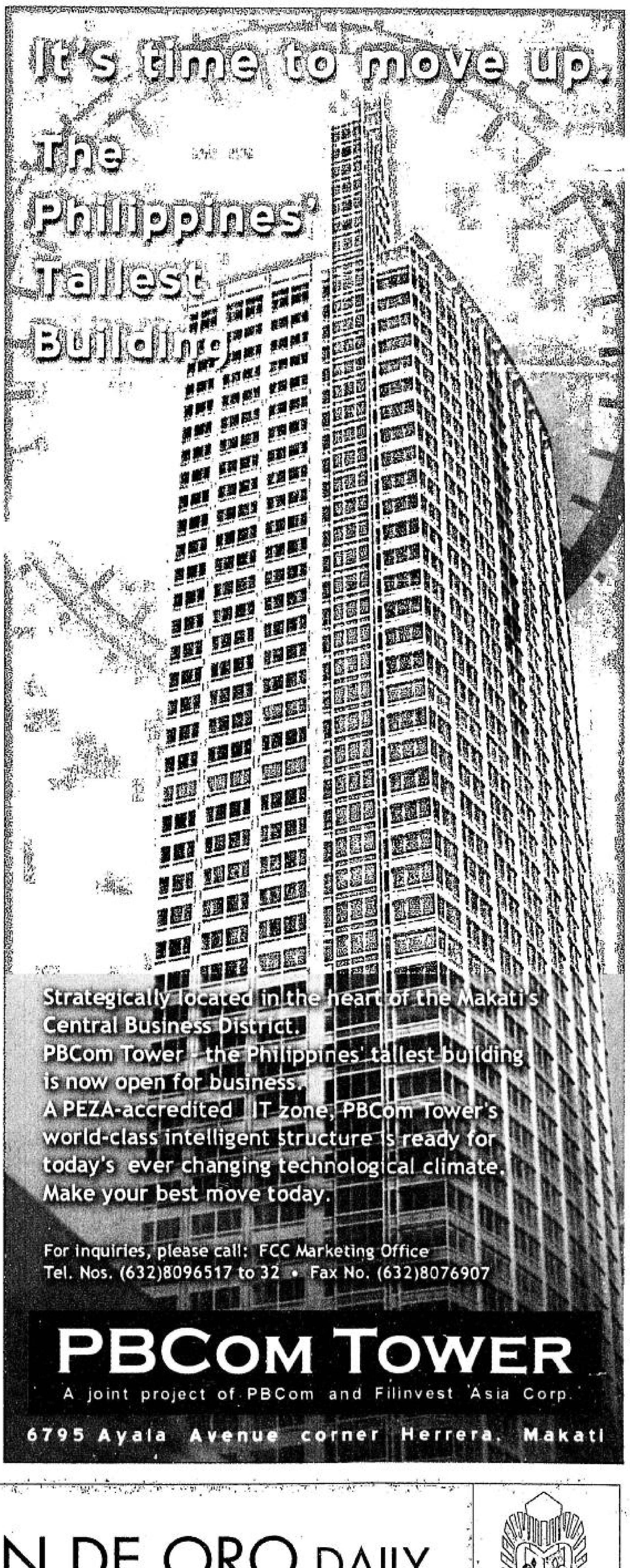

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Asian Spirit
THE PEOPLE'S AIRLINE

Newest art competition opens a floodgate

(From page D1)

entries in the ArtPetron competition. The young people were, indeed, students, and what they were carrying were no more dangerous than their artworks. This would seem like a corny anecdote, but it really happened.

The contest organizers could laugh at it now. And they saw the incident as only reflective of the Filipino's well-known concept of time, in this case, the last-minute attitude.

Three days into the deadline, the organizers were becoming nervous because the entries were coming in trickles. With only a few artworks, they might not have the prestigious competition they were aiming for.

Then that day came, and they never expected to be so inundated. There were 340 pieces at last count, with several still coming in well beyond the deadline, from all over the country.

Skills and talents

Petron is not only into business but also engages in cultural and educational activities. It projects an appreciation and understanding of Filipino social values and community customs, as its annual wall calendar shows.

Early this year, it occurred to VP for marketing Walter Tan that, instead of posing models and photographing them for a calendar, why not hold an art competition and use the winning entries for the calendar? And so he conceptualized the contest with a group of five, who oversaw it since they started brainstorming in February.

For this year, the organizers decided to highlight indigenous children's games, and every year hence there will be a different aspect of Filipino cultural life highlighted. In April, Petron announced the 1st National Student Art Competition, in two categories of oil/acrylic and watercolor, with the theme "Lumang Laro, Bagong Likha."

The competition impresses not so much for the sheer number of entries as for the quality of the works. Most of the artists have the skills good enough for book illustration, but there are real talents in painting as well.

Many of these budding painters are taking on the styles of artists as diverse as Malang, Manansala, Legaspi, Dalena, Baldemor, Amorsolo, Botong Francisco. And some even possess the cinematic eye, as shown in the vignettes utilizing camera techniques such as the extreme close-up and the high-angle shot.

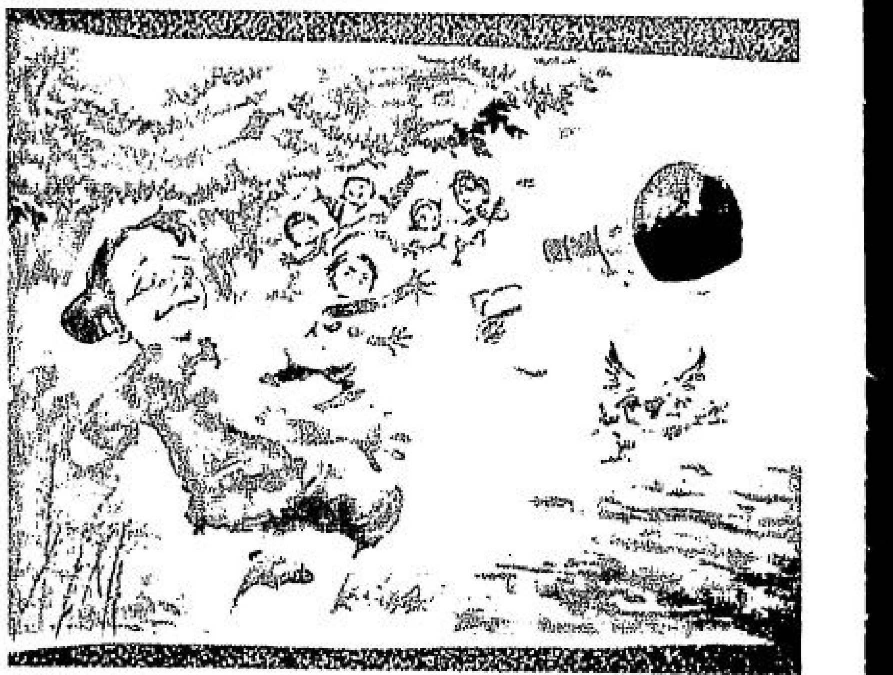
Most of the artists are overwhelmingly male.

Traditional games

The artworks, spread on the entire 28th floor of Petron Megaplaza, depict Filipino children's games such as *saputan ng gagamba* (spider fight), *shato* (two-stick game), *karera ng tsinelas o bangkang papel* (race of slippers or paper boats), *tatsing* (bottle caps in a square), *patintero* (tag), *palo sebo* (clambering up a greased pole), *kinamrasay* (beetle fight), *bolador* (kite fight), *luksong tinik* (leapfrog), *tumbang preso* (knocking the cans down), *piko* (hopscotch).

Majority of the pieces naturally portray the most common, such as *taguan* (hide-and-seek), *sungka* (board distribution), *holen* (marbles). Surprisingly, despite the games' popularity, there is only one depicting *turumpo* (top spinning) and none of the *sipa* (rattan football) and the yo-yo.

And not all are indigenous Filipino games, though. Despite one criterion stating that the rarer the game featured, the bigger the chances of winning, there are only two from the cultural minorities—one from the South and one from the northern highlands.



"TUMBANG Preso"

Maximino Balatbat's *taguan*, oil, 4' x 4', a livid piece dominated by brown and white, features a blanket-enshrouded figure like a ghostly apparition. This looks like a world of frightened adults instead of kiddies having a good time.

Mark Louie Gonzales' depiction of the foggy night of Dr. Kwak-Kwak, oil, 48" x 48", evokes the unholy hour when children scare one another by conjuring mythical creatures.

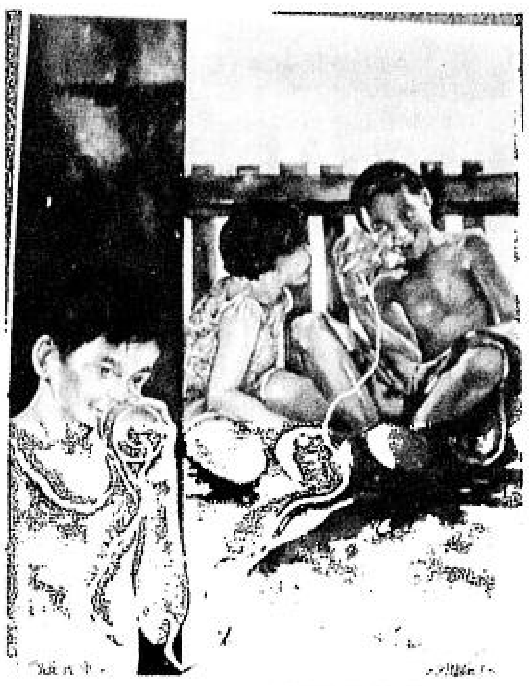
Jose Augustus Banuelos' oil in black, white, brown and blue wittily depicts four boys playing a video game while the monitor screen shows a fifth boy playing *saputan ng gagamba*. It is a none-too-subtle comment on what happens to traditional children's games in the cyber age.

Unrecognizable games

Czarina Yap's depiction of night games in the open, acrylic, 48" x 40.8", in blue and black, has the little players outlined by bluish highlight.

A similar-looking work is James Zabala's *taguan*, oil, 3' x 3', in violet and black with a circle of white light above. Here the figures are dwarfed by towering trees and foliage so that you don't know what they're playing.

Leida Austria's realist *taguan*, oil, 24" x 34", in orange and brown, is unusual as it is set inside a machine shop, warehouse or *tubero*'s *bodega*.



"TELEPONO"

Edmund Bacia's expressionist *bunong-braso*, oil, 4' x 4', in brown with highlights, is remarkable for its perspective, specifically the foreshortening of the figures.

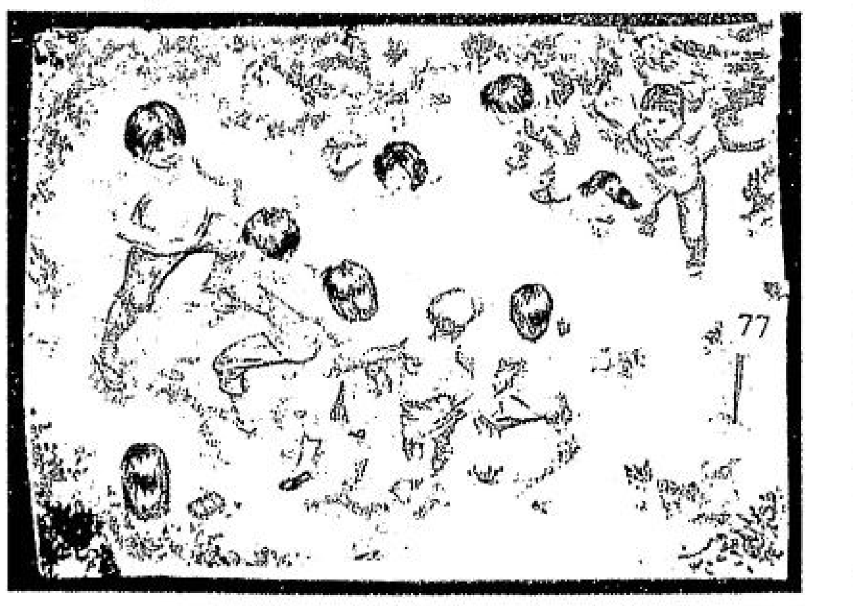
Reginald Joseph Roque's *agawan ng buko*, oil, 3' x 3', is the thickest impasto we've ever seen, done mostly in primary colors of red, yellow and blue, but also green, violet and maroon, so that it looks like a color wheel. With the style tending toward abstraction, the game becomes almost unrecognizable, and the whole piece looks too decorative.

The 30 semifinalists—15 in the oil/acrylic category and 15 in the watercolor—are now on exhibit until Aug. 22 at the Petron Megaplaza lobby, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

The announcement of the winners and the awarding ceremony will be on Aug. 22. The three first prizes get P50,000 each, the three second prizes P20,000 each, and the rest of the finalists will receive certificates. Computers will be donated to the winners' respective schools.

This is not the first time that Big Business has found a social conscience and started sponsoring the arts. Shell, PLDT and Philip Morris have been doing this for decades, in fact.

But Petron is aiming to develop the widest participation in its annual ArtPetron (get the pun?). Based on the number of entries on its first year, it isn't too far from its target.



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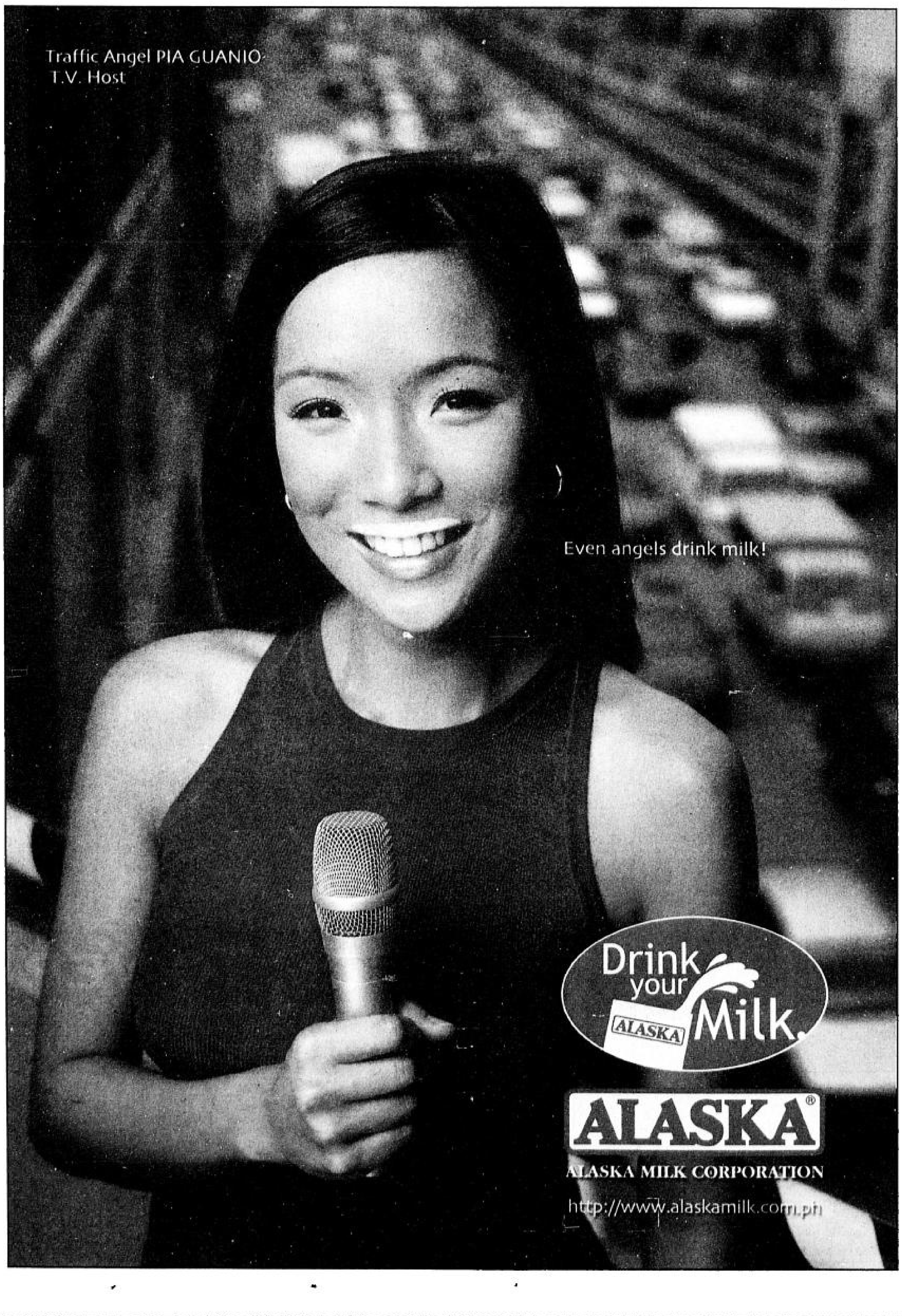

10 Filipino pilgrims . . .

(From page D6)

and the acquisition of a six-ft statue of St. Francis of Assisi. Right now, they only have a small statue of the saint at the side altar.

Those who wish to help can call Tom Barnes at 817-7506 or call Fr. Zoilo Deslate, chancellor of the Vicariate of Palawan, at (048) 433-2568.

New Pauline's Center

SISTER Vangie of Pauline's Center believes that high-tech communications can be a tool for evangelization. The St. Paul Sisters recently opened the Pauline's Center at 2655 F. B. Harrison Street, near the Philippine School for the Deaf. It is a two-story building that sells books, greeting cards, posters, audiocassettes, videos and sound slides.

If you're looking for Henri Nouwen's books, this is the place to go. The bookstore is open from Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The center has a coffee room where one can read and a playroom for children. Call Sister Evelyn or Sister Jopat at 832-2100.

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Powerdance celebrates the quiet moments in our lives

By Marge C. Enriquez

WHILE OTHER performing arts groups complain about lack of audience, the Powerdance office is usually inundated by inquiries about its coming shows, weeks before the tickets are out. Although choreographer and artistic director Douglas Nierras doesn't expect a full house at the Cultural Center's Main Theater on Aug. 25-26, he can foresee a good occupancy.

What is about Nierras and Powerdance that they can attract a sizeable audience of non-balletomanes that can withstand the three-hour-long shows?

Pop culture

For one, the theme is timely. The 14th annual concert "Turn Up the Quiet…Just Dance!" is meant to be a soothing balm for troubled times.

"The title celebrates the quiet moments in our lives," explains Nierras. "It's an antidote to the noise we've been having in this country. If you find something wrong here, somebody will create

POWERDANCE/ p.E4

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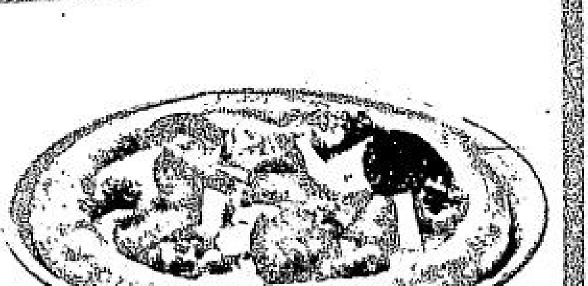

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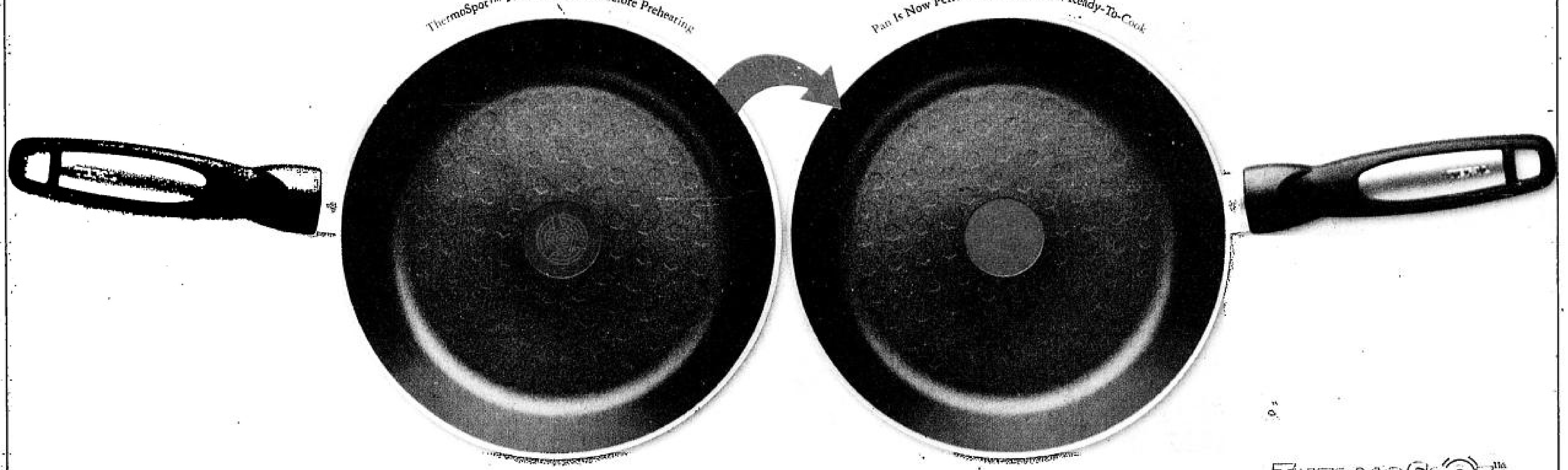

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Reynaldo Reyes enriches the music scene

BY ANTONIO C. HILA

THE FRENCH term *etude* means "study." Composers write etudes not only to serve as exercises to hone technical virtuosity, but to develop the artistic expression of the performing artist. Many works for the piano are written in this genre. Listening to an all-etude piano concert is an enthralling experience. Among the country's top concert pianists, Prof. Reynaldo Reyes is noted and credited for his innovative sense of programming. He is perhaps the only local pianist whose program follows a definite theme. He also presents works of a single composer on appropriate occasions, like birth and death anniversaries.

Only this month at the UP Abelardo Hall, Reyes treated Manila's music lovers to an all-etude recital consisting of works by Claude Debussy, Frederic Chopin and Franz Liszt. Presented by the UP College of Music, under the initiative of its dean, Prof. Mauricia Borromeo, in cooperation with the university's Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts, the concert was both inspiring and educational.

Debussy is ranked with Chopin and Liszt for his contribution to the development of pianism. His set of 12 etudes has become regular fare in many recitals. Of these etudes, Reyes played four, namely Etudes No. 1, 6, 11 and 12. Here, one gleans the subtle technical as well as tonal problems set by the composer who undeniably had a sense of humor.

The first etude, for example, aptly titled "Five-finger exercise," alludes to the exercises of Carl Czerny, a student of Beethoven who became popular for his work on piano studies. Reyes at once announced the five-finger passage and surged through the lengthy work, which proceeded in a fitful manner. The sixth etude, a "Study for Eight Fingers," which was played without the thumb, was even more captivating. And whoever thought that arpeggios in broken chords at that could be more musical? Reyes superbly showed this in Etude No. 11. In the last etude, Reyes showed command in grasping chords accurately.

Science and art

Chopin composed 24 etudes divided in two sets, Op. 10 and Op. 25, which consist of 12 etudes each. In writing these etudes, Chopin said that he "put not only science but also art into them." Pianists are generally agreed that the etudes of Chopin ask for an extraordinary sense of virtuosity, which calls both for technical and interpretative prowess. From Op. 10 Reyes played the last three, and from the other set, he played No. 5, 7 and 11. The most popular of these etudes is, of course, the last etude of the first set, which had been called the "Revolutionary Etude." This is a fiery etude that combines the dramatic passages done by the right hand and the sweeping accompaniment etched by the left hand. The incurable romantics simply love etude No. 7 of the second set, as a lovely duet is done by both hands. Reyes brought out the *cantilena* appeal of this piece though his elegant legato.

PIANIST and pedagogue Reynaldo Reyes is noted for his innovative programming.

Etude No. 11 is notorious for its chromatic configuration, hence the title "Winter Wind." It was a good way of dismounting from these Chopin etudes as Reyes kept a clear balance between both hands.

In the Liszt numbers, Reyes surged to a more difficult dimension. All the more his stance did not waver. His playing breezed through with a cocksure confidence, projecting indeed a stance only a seasoned performer could give.

Liszt himself was a great pianist and his piano compositions are admired for both its technical as well as musical demands. While he carried this tradition set forth by Chopin, he also exploited the piano's total range, so as to make it sound like an orchestra. He wrote many etudes, one of which were the Six Paganini Etudes that Reyes played in full. It is said that the virtuoso playing of violinist Niccolo Paganini inspired him to hone to perfection his skill as a pianist. Such virtuosity is reflected in these etudes, the most popular of which is Etude No. 3, otherwise known as "La Campanella." The most musical set of variations on a theme which Johannes Brahms and Sergei Rachmaninoff is also used in Etude No. 6.

Prowess

Reyes dazzled his listeners with his technical prowess in the "Campanella," as he caressed the upper register to give that ringing bell tone effect. He rendered the last etude with utmost power. Earlier, he handsomely crafted Etude No. 2, doing those chromatic passages with elan to project its glittering effect.

Now 67 years old, Reyes' playing was, of course, marked by occasional lapses. The biggest wonder, of course, is, at his age, he still dares to play and achieves good result. His long years of concertizing, not to mention teaching, has given him a broad perspective and a thorough understanding of the intricacies and art of piano performance. He definitely knows his metier. He anchors his playing on a solid understanding of the piece and an articulate idea on how to exactly bring out its essence. In other words, he does not just play for the sake of playing, or render a piece that his equipment—technical as well as musical—does not allow him to give justice. While intuition has its proper contribution in developing an artist's insight, Reyes discards it in favor of the rational approach: a clear and intelligent idea of how to play his program.

Thus at the end, the listener was enlightened on how to appreciate the contrasting etudes composed of the featured three composers who not only wrote in different styles but also showed different treatments of the piano.

Piano enthusiasts that include teachers and students alike owe Reyes for enriching the local music scene. He regularly comes home and shares his expertise with them by holding of master classes and individual coachings. At the UST Conservatory, where he's an illustrious alumnus, he funds a scholarship program and in between, he still finds time to treat music lovers to a well thought-out concert such as this recital. Bravo, Professor Reyes!

Alam n'yo na ba ang latest kay Sharon?

Passionate, pacific music

BY PABLO A. TARIMAN

EVEN as I missed the concert of San Francisco Conservatory scholar Hiyas Hila (the Tuguegarao-bound PAL plane that would bring us back to Manila failed to land due to heavy rains), we got excellent feedback to her recital from the music community.

National Artist Andrea Veneracion noted her musicality, technique and clear and thorough playing. UP College of Music head Mauricia Borromeo singled out that her "excellent phrasing," adding that the "ornamentations in the Bach piece were done in good taste thus bringing out the inherent baroque spirit of Bach's French Suite No. 5 in G Major." Piano teacher Nanette Buencamino-Sinco said Hiyas has transformed tremendously; she found her Chopin's Ballade No. 1 in G Minor superb.

Over at the Cultural Center, the University of Santo Tomas Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Renato Lucas played a mixed program of Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Puccini arias featuring tenor Jose Randy Gilongo and of Bruch's Concerto for Two Pianos featuring pianists Reynaldo Reyes and Dorothy Uyboco-Uytengsu.

Gilongo's best asset is his sense of line, especially in the Mozart concert aria, "Perpieta con ricercate," and Lenski's aria from "Eugene Onegin." Outwardly, his baritone timber dominated his tenor sound and that's the reason Puccini's "Recondita armonia" doesn't have that ringing quality. But then, the high notes were in place and the crowd cheered him for that. On the whole, Gilongo is an intelligent singer.

In the Philippine premiere of Bruch's Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra Op. 88, Reyes and Uytengsu displayed formidable keyboard rapport. The two were keenly interwoven in the *andante sostenuto* part, but let out commendable *brio* in the andante allegro finale. Lucas' conducting was adequate.

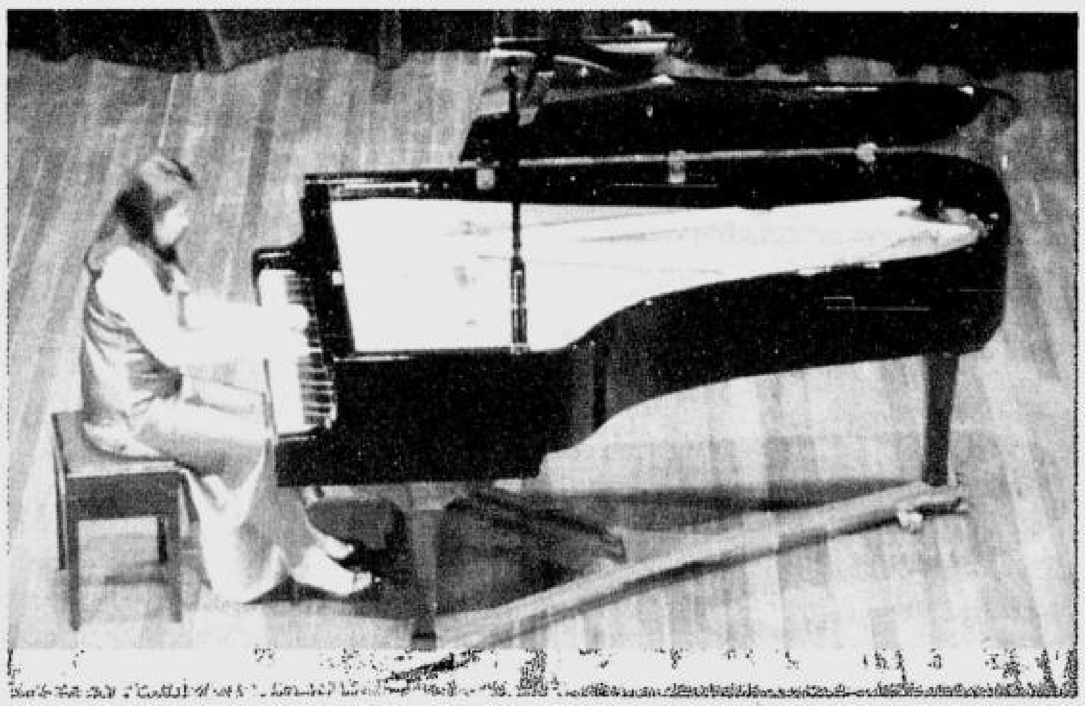
Reyes figured in a solo recital at the UP Abelardo Hall a few days later as part of the UP College of Music Thursday recital series. Playing the Etudes of Debussy (No. 1, 6, 11 and 12), Chopin (No. 10, 11 and 12 Op. 10 and No. 5, 7 and 11 Op. 25) and Paganini-Liszt (No. 1 to 6), Reyes was clearly in his element but the grand piano was obviously not for a pianist of his caliber. In the Paganini-Liszt section, his "La Campanella" drew cheers and for good reason. Even if the piano was not responding the way it should, he drew out sonorous brilliant sounds worthy of the composer's wishes.

Making his Bicol debut in Catanduanes two days later with pianist Ingrid Sala Santamaria in an evening of Grieg and Tchaikovsky concertos, Reyes on the second piano was clearly equal to 70 members of an orchestra in terms of power and faithful reproduction of the orchestra part in two concertos.

Sponsored by the Catanduanes chapter of the Philippine National Red Cross under chair Maricel Zantua and officer in charge Dave Templonuevo, the two pianists (the soloist in a baby grand and piano two in an upright that had seen better days) gamely did their part and were rewarded by two standing ovations for the two concertos. After an open forum, which drew intelligent questions from the islanders most of whom were laymen, the two obliged with an encore each—Santamaria with Chopin's Ballade in G and Reyes with "La Campanella." Another standing ovation ensued.

Facing the Pacific Ocean in this noonday beach picnic (courtesy of Bato Mayor Lorenzo Templonuevo) while pianist Reyes and his son Telly were enjoying the clear island sea water, pianist Santamaria at once recalled a line from the letter of her friend, Dame Margot Fonteyn, which says, "I send you this greeting while I stand on the seashore facing the Pacific Ocean at the end of which I know you are there."

THE LATE Redentor Romero with Romanian violinist Alexander Tomescu


HIYAS Hila at the San Francisco Conservatory

Santamaria was incredulous that her journey with Reyes would reach this far, right in this typhoon-infested part of the Pacific isles.

Here and there

THE LATE conductor Redentor Romero will be honored with a commemorative exhibit at the Ayala Museum (Filipinas Room) on Aug. 25, 6 p.m., which happens to be his birthday. Now that he is gone, one of my contacts for acclaimed European artist and young prizewinners is gone as well. In his time, I did not have to go to Russia and Romania to meet world-acclaimed violinists Victoria Mullova, Vladimir Spivakov, Alexander Tomescu and soprano Nelly Miricioiu. I just had to have Red bring them to this country.

* * *

Opera returns to the CCP with Verdi's "Il Trovatore" as the season opening presentation of the Philippine Philharmonic under the baton of Ruggero Barbieri on Sept. 14 and 15. The presentation is in cooperation with the Singapore Lyric Opera and the Opera Guild of the Phils. Mario di Marco sings the role of Count di Luna, Constantin Nica as Manrico, Christina Lamberti as Leonora and Yang Zie as Azucena. There are two Filipinos in the cast: Soprano Rachelle Gerodias as Inez and tenor Lemuel de la Cruz as Ruiz. Costume and set design is by Salvador Bernal and direction by Leow Siak Fax. For tickets, call the CCP Box Office at 832-3704.

* * *

If you are somewhere in Cebu and Dumaguete on Aug. 30 and Sept. 1 and 2, you better catch Elgar's Cello Concerto, which will be performed for the first time in the Visayas with Renato Lucas as soloist of the Peace Philharmonic Philippines under the baton of British conductor Adrian Brown. The venue is the Cebu Plaza Grand Lobby and the Luce Auditorium and the Macias Sports and Cultural Center in Dumaguete City. For inquiries, call Cora or Joy at (032) 231-1341 in Cebu, and Marites and Marsha in Dumaguete City at (035) 421-0241.

Meanwhile, the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation will present Japanese pianist Kanji Watanabe in a solo recital on Sept. 7 at the Cebu Provincial Capital Social Hall and on the following day, he will conduct master classes for Cebu's budding pianists at the Sala Foundating Center on Gorordo Avenue, Cebu City.

* * *

Tenor Nelson Caruncho, a student of music critic Antonio Hila, was accepted as a scholar at the University of Illinois and will study under tenor Jerold Siena. He also passed the auditions at the San Francisco Conservatory, Cleveland Institute of Music and the State University of New York, but chose University of Illinois because of the substantial scholarship grant offered to him.

Wanted: Leading man

(From page E8)

Sometimes you can start believing what you are acting and get carried away... you fall in love with your leading lady. But you have to be able to compartmentalize. *Trabaho lang ito*—you kiss as part of the show, *hanggang doon lang*. Personally, it's a decision! *Kung ayaw mo*, nothing will come of it!

Noel: Kissing is a demand of the scene and should be treated as such. You want it to look good and the best way to do it is for it to be real. But that isn't always possible. So it can be very, very technical.

Jeff: It's easy if you are a romantic at heart. It's easier if you're repressed. *Kasi* it's an outlet, *eh*... all your fantasies and all your inhibitions comes out. And it can be fun if you and your partner work well on stage... But really hard work if you don't have chemistry.

Noel: It is a challenge to build chemistry because you can't choose your partner. It's a matter of building trust. So it's preferable to have an amiable relationship outside.

Jeff: Which is why we go out on group dates with our Princesses... for a little bonding... to get to know each other better... to build a friendship. *Pero* it isn't really necessary. As long as both of you are professionals, it will still work... *na kahit magkagalit kayo pero pagdating ng trabaho*, okay *lang*. Noel is right though. You need to make a little bit more adjustment with your scene partner because it has to look like you're really in love.

Noel: You have to take from each other more because its not dependent on just your or her but the both of you.

Responsibilities

Despite the benefits, both Noel and Jeff agree that along with the pluses come a few minuses. The adage, "To whom much is given, much is required," is true of leading men.

Noel: The chorus cannot save a play if the leading man is bad. But a good lead can save a play with weak chorus. So there is the burden of "carrying" a show.

Jeff: It's hard *kasi* the pressure is there. Everyone is going to look at you. It's not any bit role where you can get by with a mistake, fumble your lines or trip during your dance. *Iba kasi* leading man *ka nga*. It's also hard work. *Kasi* feeling *mo*, the scene is on your shoulders.

Noel: You have to watch your weight. You can't eat Hiagen Dazs or cheesecake... You spend hours in the gym...

Jeff: Yes, you have that pressure that should look good. *Kasi yung mga tao* they're so discriminating... and base their opinions of you on the visual. "*Hindi naman guapo bakit s'ya ang bida. Mas guapo 'yung kontrabida.*" And then there's the misconception that doing romantic lead is a piece of cake... that it is just a brainless bit of acting! *Pang*-display *lang*! You'll just sing the love song, maybe save her from some peril or other and live happily ever after.

Noel: Which isn't true. There's a certain stance, the way you cock your head, your posture, your smile... you need all these to be a romantic lead and it doesn't always come easy—especially if you're not used to wanting people to look at you. When you're the romantic lead, you must not only want people to look at you but you must actually want people, especially the girls, to want you!

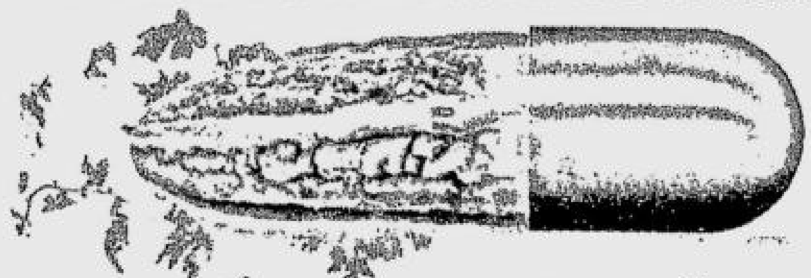
Jeff: Sometimes... or oftentimes, it is the way the role is written. *Parepareho*... all in the same mold. So then the challenge becomes how to make the role different, give it a new twist, make it more interesting.

Noel: And that is definitely not easy because you are bound by your material... which is, well... brainless... wimpy... *pa*-cute...

After all's been said and done, both Jeff and Noel agree that the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. Though both admit to wanting to "graduate" to meatier roles (both eventually want to play Nicodemus in "Little Mermaid" with Noel aiming for King Lear and Jeff longing for a good *kontrabida* role), they know that for now, there is nothing quite like playing the romantic lead (in "Little Mermaid" they get not one but two leading ladies)!

So, calling all boys and men out there. Take acting lessons, take singing lessons, take dancing lessons, get braces, a nose-lift, whatever. Romantic leads wanted and needed!

Trumpets' "Little Mermaid" runs every weekend until Sept. 15 at the Meralco Theater. Call 633-5010 or 636-2842



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Meron daw siya'ng kasama na super saya at super sarap mag-alaga!

Powerdance celebrates the quiet moments in our lives

(From page E1)

more noise to distract us. It's too loud." The title is taken from a biblical passage that states that in times of chaos, it's time to retreat to that part of your heart where there is silence to find the truth.

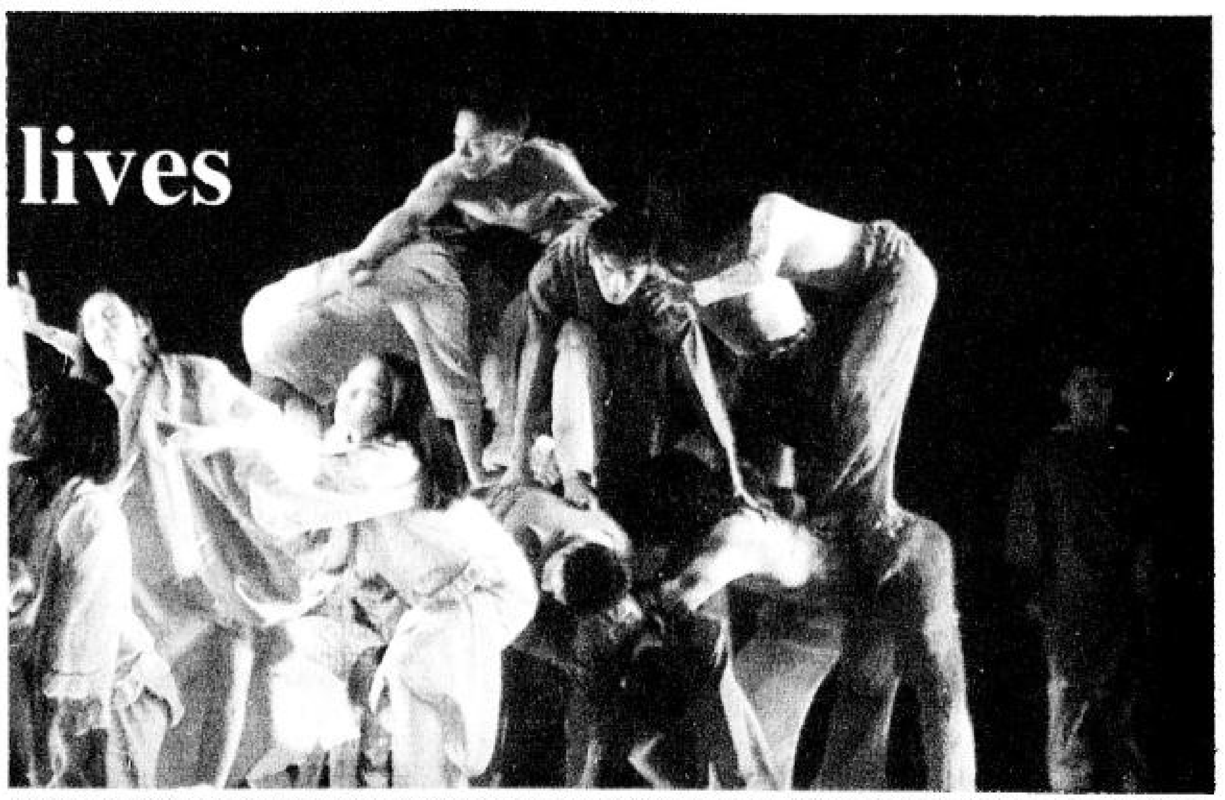
"It's not quiet. There will be contrapuntal between loud and soft, loud and quiet," he says.

The concert contains some of his trademarks—a mix of religion, pop culture and social relevance. A Powerdance concert usually begins with a devotional number offered to Someone up there. "Pamamalay (Awareness)" is a study of stillness in motion. The first section is meditation in movement wherein the choreography is unique to the individual dancer.

A fan of the Beatles, Nierras will present his third Beatle suite, "Packages from Liverpool." It's a feel-good number about life in a dance company, the relationships among dancers and semi-biographical reference to the roots of Powerdance.

Every show has a suite of familiar songs such as "I've Never Been in Love Before," All the Way" and "One for My Baby."

"These standards seep into my mind. These were the songs that my sisters loved. They were responsible for my musical development. These songs stuck like glue into my subconscious. When I hear them, they keep repeating in my mind visions and feelings about how I relate to my sisters who take care of me a lot. It comes out in the work," he says.


"GABAQ-AN" is a piece about freedom and a collaborative work with Powerdance, Bayanihan and the Madrigals.

Freedom from fear

The highlight is his 40-minute work "Gabaq-an," done in collaboration with the Bayanihan and the Philippine Madrigal Singers. CCP commissioned Nierras to do the work for Independence Day. Since the themes were on freedom and unity, Nierras eschewed clichés and literal images such as the *rayadillos* and the Kawit, Cavite tableau.

"I wanted to show freedom and simplify it: What is freedom to whom?" Nierras waxes philosophical. He develops the choreographic idea of freedom as it evolves from childhood to adulthood. The childhood has fears of the unknown, of monsters and creatures lurking in the dark. When he grows up, the child outgrows those fears, yet he is bound by a different set of anxieties. Thus, the adult yearns for the childhood innocence and freedom of the child.

"Gabaq-an" is a strongly rhythmic piece, performed by the Bayanihan's musical ensemble. Nierras combines folkloric and organic movements with Powerdance's modern moves. The work also has references to folk customs and traditions, which are deconstructed, and to the underworld and the *babaylan*.

Expect Nierras' imaginative gimmicks such as putting the Madrigal singers under the net to signify the forest.

Passion

Although familiar songs, themes drawn from life and theatrical devices are sure-fire ingredients of a hit show, Nierras doesn't leave anything to chance. He invites people, not necessarily dance enthusiasts, to watch rehearsals and get their feedback.

"I'm lucky that after all these years I've developed the director's perspective. When the dance is finished, I can sit back and look at it as a whole. I can see the interplay between the dancers and the way composition comes together. The perspective of an audience is important. I should convey to them an idea," he says.

NIERRAS. Known for his heart and soul.

Nierras never gets too close to his work. He only wants to express what he feels even if the audience doesn't understand it.

To be original, Nierras avoids watching other dance concerts while in the midst of a project.

"When I'm choreographing, my senses are so open; I get affected by whatever you feed me. If I see something nice, I might use it. It's hard to come up with anything original these days. Everybody has done everything. The only way is an original means of putting it together," says Nierras. An inexperienced choreographer can easily plagiarize, but Nierras says he can overpower an influence.

Asked how he has evolved over the years, Nierras replies, "I am free. I don't think that to be Philippine contemporary you have to put Filipino music or movement or what not. I think of the integrity of Filipino soul in me. Whatever I do is largely Filipino. I have no apologies for that anymore. If I do a Frank Sinatra piece today I will do it and still say it's Philippine contemporary. After all, Frank Sinatra is a large part of our videoke culture. I'm not afraid anymore," he says.

"Foremost the Filipino has a heart and soul—sentimentality. Unlike *tanztheater* (German dance theater) which has no sentimentality, it's more about ideas, concepts, terms and cerebral things. You can't understand it. It's cerebral in the mind of the choreographer but not to the people. The audience should participate in the cerebral nature of the work," he says.

Could his Filipino sentiment be the reason for the defeat of his work "Metanoia," at the Onassis international competition for the arts? Although it made it to the top 20, the winning choreographies were introverted and philosophical. Nierras' work was about faith and passion.

"Mine had more sentiment. 'Metanoia' is celebratory and it has heart. I don't want to change that. That is what who I am"

"Turn Up the Quiet...Just Dance" will be shown at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo on Aug. 25 at 8 p.m. and Aug. 26 at 4 p.m. Call 633-6417.

Adieu to two fine Frenchmen

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

ALL these goodbyes are much too sad. French embassy consul Monsieur et Madame **Kostia Sakow** and the very popular **Renaud Fessaguet**, director of the Alliance Française, have finished their tour of duty. The dapper French Ambassador **Gilles Chouraqui**, who was himself leaving for his annual August vacation, hosted two successive champagne receptions for his two fellow Frenchmen.

The dynamic Renaud, who was a TV journalist before this posting, hasn't quite made up his mind what's next on the agenda. He will be a hard act to follow, what with the construction of Alliance's own building on Reposo Street during his term (it has an excellent and reasonable bistro on the ground floor), and the varied projects he has supported, including the ground-breaking French Spring in Manila.

MR. and Ms Kostia Sakow

Nelson Navarro was in a rascal mood all evening and announced his departure from town for more than a month to take a breather from all the muck that was going on. He was seconded by good friend **Rod Dula**, whose restaurant, Mama Rosa in Quezon City, is a tribute to his Bicolano origins. (Someone in Malaya insisted the restaurant was Goto King and I said no way. It turned out to be true! The enterprising Rod has two restaurants.)

None of us that evening could figure out what was happening with the CCP, the NCCA and even the National Museum, where a member of the board of trustees is supposed to be a National Artist. **Joey Ayala**, a National Artist? News to me, but one never knows with Malacañang.

There were quite a number of members of the Fourth Estate, including **Alex Magno**, who was being congratulated for the Sona, though he said he had nothing to do with the metaphors, and **Teddy Benigno** who said he had seen it all and nothing could surprise him anymore. Good-looking **Kim Ramos** was there with pianist **Giovanni Cruz** as well as Bangko Sentral Gov. **Rafael Buenaventura** with Ms Buenaventura a.k.a. **Marivic**. Watch it, he said. He'd soon be blamed for the nation's problems.

FRENCH Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui

BELGIAN Ambassador Roland Remoortele

PDI chair Marixi Prieto

ALEX Magno and Teddy Benigno

NEAL Jagoe of British Embassy

RENAUD Fessaguet, Ambassador Chouraqui and Gigi Montinola

TONY Rufino

PAENG and Marivic Buenaventura

NATIONAL Artist Francisco Sionil Jose and Tessie Jose

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

FR. Gabriel Casal and Fr, Pedro Galende

RODNEY Bell and Wilfried Scheffler of Goethe Institute

Ballet Manila holds world premiere of 'Romeo and Juliet' by Russian national artist

BALLET Manila will present the world premiere of "Romeo and Juliet," as choreographed by People's Artist of Russia Sergey Vikulov and set to the music of Sergey Prokofiev as rendered by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, on Sept. 28, 8 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater). Performances will also be held on Sept. 29 at 3 and 8 p.m., and on Sept. 30 at 3 p.m.

Ballet Manila principal artists Lisa Macuja and Osias Barroso take on the lead roles in the classic tale of passion and romance, as retold in a three-act, full-length ballet. Soloists Christopher Mohnani and Elline Damian will perform in matinee performances.

"Romeo and Juliet" is a sentimental event for prima ballerina Lisa Macuja as it reunites her with her "St. Petersburg family" in an unprecedented professional collaboration. For some years as a student at the Vaganova Choreographic Institute and later as a soloist with the Kirov Theater, Macuja stayed with an artistically gifted clan whom she has since come to regard as her second family.

Tatiana Udalenkova, Macuja's mentor in Russia, will be coaching her anew. Udalenkova's husband, Sergey Vikulov, a former principal danseur of the Kirov Theater and later named People's Artist of Russia, is the choreographer. The couple's son, conductor Alexander Vikulov, whom Macuja refers to as her "brother," will lead the PPO during the performances.

"This project has been a year in the making and a wonderful dream come true," enthuses Macuja. The production is made even more significant by the fact that the ballerina will be receiving on premiere night the "Order of International Friendship" from Russian President Vladimir Putin, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Russian-Philippine relations. Russian Ambassador Anatoli Khmelnitski will present the award.

Macuia says Juliet is her favorite lyrical role. She has played Juliet in three different productions before—on a two-month tour of New Zealand as principal guest artist of the Royal New Zealand Ballet, at Atlanta Ballet in a piece choreographed by Thomas Pazik, and in the 20-minute Tchaikovsky overture by SergeyVikulov during Ballet Manila's first anniversary concert.

Macuja notes that the CCP Main Theater is an ideal venue for the "soaring leaps of our men and the quicksilver pirouettes and high extensions of our women."

She is also looking forward to the PPO accompaniment, saying, "The music of Prokofiev is simply so much more dramatic when heard live. After experiencing dancing Juliet to a live orchestra under famous Royal Ballet Conductor Sir Ashley Lawrence in New Zealand, I had to get that rush again and add a first to Philippine cultural history."

"Romeo and Juliet" is part of Ballet Manila's sixth season and is its third production since arriving from a successful Russian tour in January.

Call Ballet Manila at 512-5031 to 32 or 525-5967, e-mail info@balletmanila.com or check the company's website www.balletmanila.com.

LISA Macuja and Osias Barroso in "Romeo and Juliet"

ELLINE Damian and Christopher Mohnani will perform in matinees.

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PALOMPON (053) 555-8100
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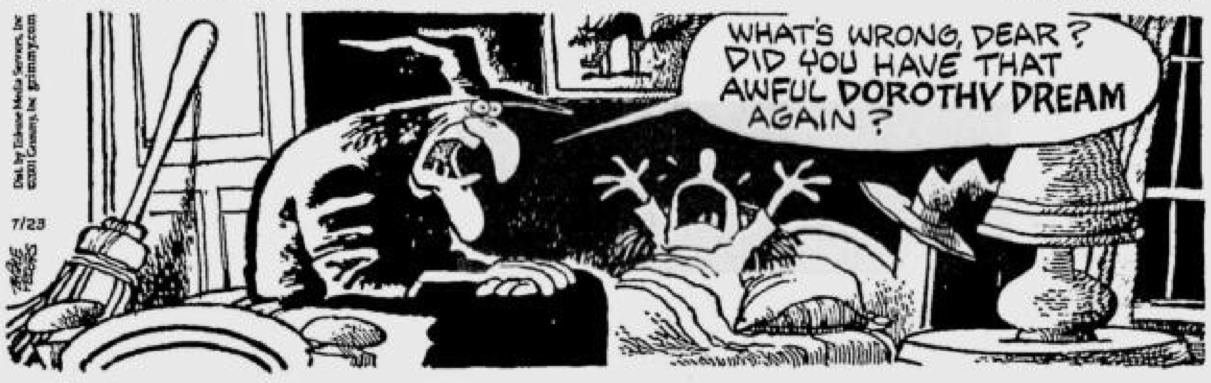
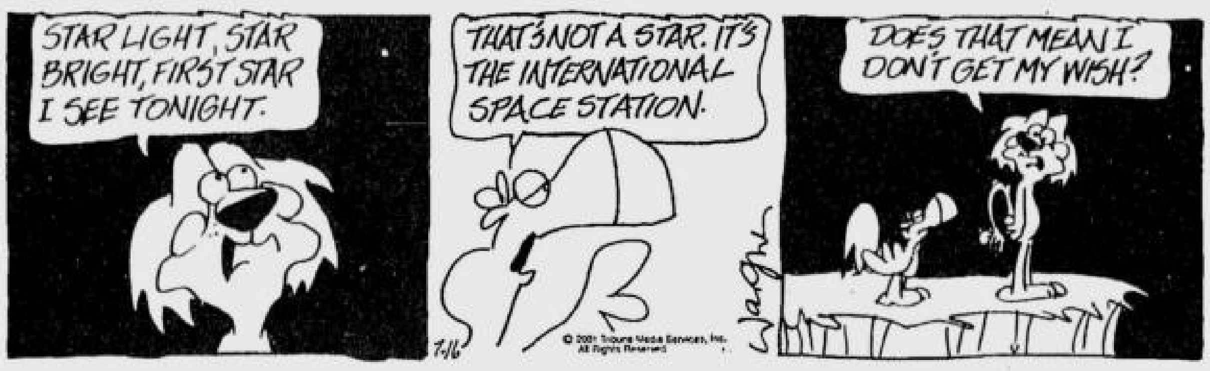
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WHAT'S WRONG, DEAR? DID YOU HAVE THAT AWFUL DOROTHY DREAM AGAIN?
7/23

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT, FIRST STAR I SEE TONIGHT.
THAT'S NOT A STAR. IT'S THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.
DOES THAT MEAN I DON'T GET MY WISH?
7-16
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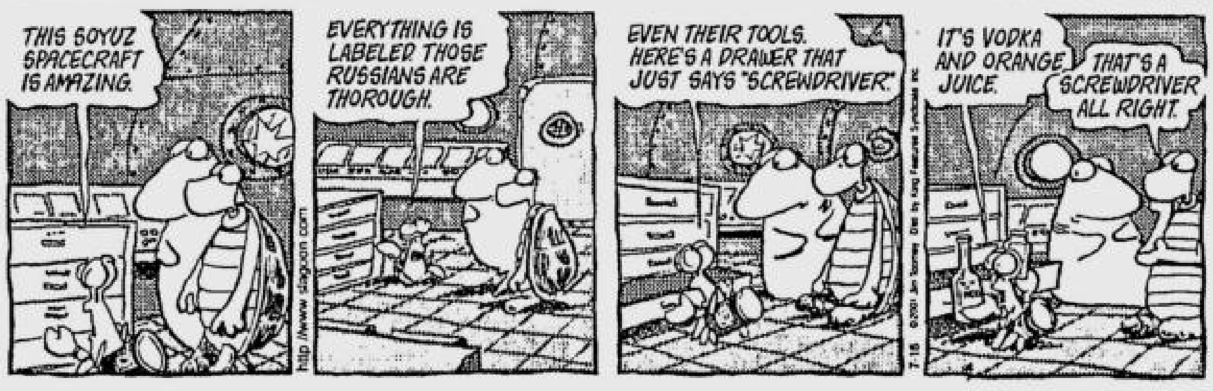
Wagner

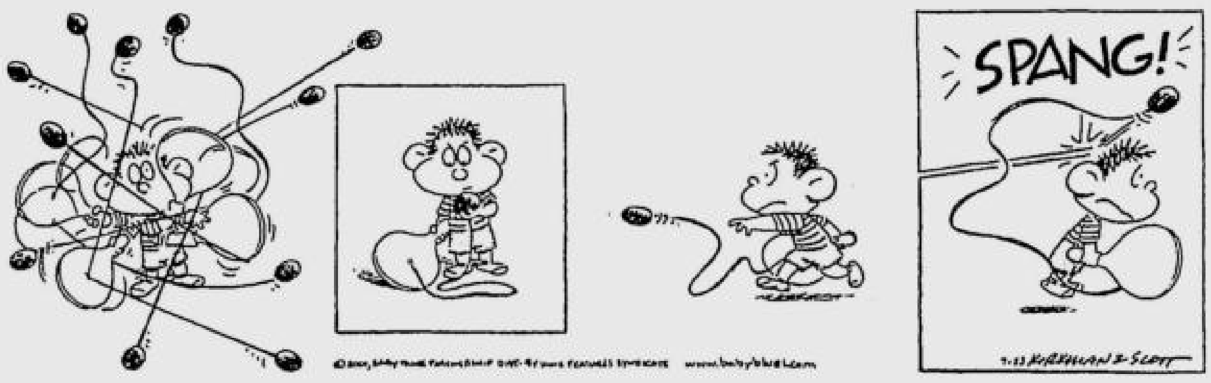
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THIS SOYUZ SPACECRAFT IS AMAZING.
EVERYTHING IS LABELED. THOSE RUSSIANS ARE THOROUGH.
EVEN THEIR TOOLS. HERE'S A DRAWER THAT JUST SAYS "SCREWDRIVER."
IT'S VODKA AND ORANGE JUICE.
THAT'S A SCREWDRIVER ALL RIGHT.
http://www.slagoon.com
7-18

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SPANG!
www.babyblues.com
7-13 KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Connie Chung, Isaac Hayes, Al Roker, Joan Allen, Peter Horton

Happy Birthday: Your charming way of dealing with others will lead to greater love, romance and popularity. You'll be looking for adventure and taking action when you see an opportunity to venture into unknown territory. This year of growth should bring you great joy and happiness. Follow through with your plans and the rest will be history. Your numbers: 8, 17, 31, 33, 37, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Problems with peers will develop into unpleasant conflicts if you spend too much time together. You'll have fabulous ideas, but unfortunately will have to implement them yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get back to doing the things that made you happy way back when. Dancing, tennis, it doesn't really matter what, but it has to be something that will make you feel good about yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Tempers will mount if you have taken on too much. Don't be surprised if unexpected guests drop by. Someone in your house may be less than accommodating, causing embarrassment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Expect to experience delays if you are traveling. Limitations will arise if you have signed up for too many courses or seminars. Try not to make promises that will be impossible to keep.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Poor financial investments are liable to hurt your already tight budget. You must be careful not to spend money that you don't have. Conservative money ventures are your best bet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be tuned in and sensitive to your lover's needs. Try to stabilize your relationship by making accommodations that will please your partner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You are likely to overreact to the comments made by others. Stress may cause minor health problems. Be careful not to upset employers or authority figures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can ask for favors and get sound advice from reliable friends or relatives. Don't hesitate to entertain those who can provide you with valuable information and knowledge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your professional drive will enable you to get ahead as long as you don't let your personal life interfere with your goals. Be direct with your boss concerning your course of action.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Business trips will pay big dividends. Don't hesitate to move if it means a promotion. Be careful not to let peers get wind of your ideas. You need to stay ahead of the competition.

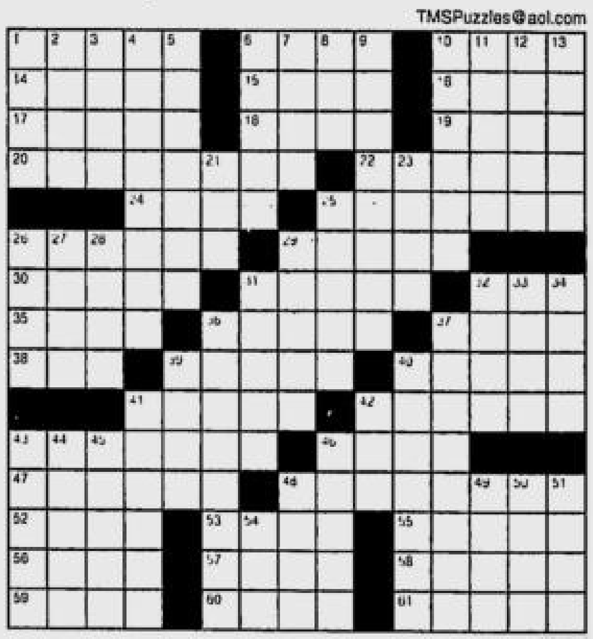
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Opposition from older family members will cause problems. Keep your personal issues to yourself. Don't lend money or possessions to friends or family. You need to invest wisely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be trapped between unfinished business and family affairs. Start your day early and fit in as much as possible. You may be tired come nightfall, but it will have been worth it.

Birthday Baby: You are a loving individual who will always put your best efforts into everything. You are innovative, inventive but also practical. Your disciplined attitude will help you finish what you start.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



7/4/01

ACROSS
1 Fred's first dance partner
6 Calcium oxide
10 Sailing
14 Urchin
15 Norway's patron saint
16 Pyramid, e.g.
17 Gives off
18 Actress Moreno
19 July birthstone
20 Woo with a song
22 Turning points
24 College cheers
25 Starlike objects
26 Fleeces
29 Charlatan
30 Rich dessert
31 Connecting rooms
32 Use a microwave?
35 Beheaded Boleyn
36 Pungent product
37 Coke or Pepsi
38 Turn right!
39 Move furtively
40 Common shower gift
41 Plainsong
42 Superlatively superior
43 Kind of triangle
46 Household press
47 Thin strand
48 Issued forth
52 __-de-camp
53 Vocalist Fitzgerald
55 Writer Zola
56 Chills
57 Wander
58 Parts of shoes
59 Accomplished
60 Soaks up rays
61 Be stealthy

DOWN
1 Becomes mellower
2 Knight's lady
3 Abu Dhabi leader
4 Able to read
5 Trap
6 Ladies' men?
7 Nastase of the nets
8 Table protector
9 Clear out
10 In jeopardy
11 The March King
12 Burning coal
13 Black hole
21 Expressions of satisfaction
23 Try to outrun
25 Speedy
26 Males only affair
27 Sharpen
28 Sea eagle
29 One of five, shortly
31 Backbone
32 Distinct region
33 Alternatives to lagers
34 Breathe shallowly
36 Defames
37 Reddish brown
39 Mets stadium
40 Pride member
41 John of "Fawlty Towers"
42 Italian monk
43 Permanent
44 One of Harpo's brothers
45 Actress Eve
46 Islamic prayer leaders
48 Distinctive flair
49 Flooring piece
50 Zeno of __
51 Escritoire
54 Brock of baseball

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

O	M	A	R		N	U	T	S		S	L	E	D	S
G	O	R	E		O	M	I	T		P	I	X	E	L
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			A	W	E	S	O	M	E			S	I	R
S	C	O	T	L	A	N	D	Y	A	R	D			
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U	N	C	L	A	S	P		E	S	T	E	L	L	E
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A	T	S	E	A		S	T	E	W		D	A	D	A

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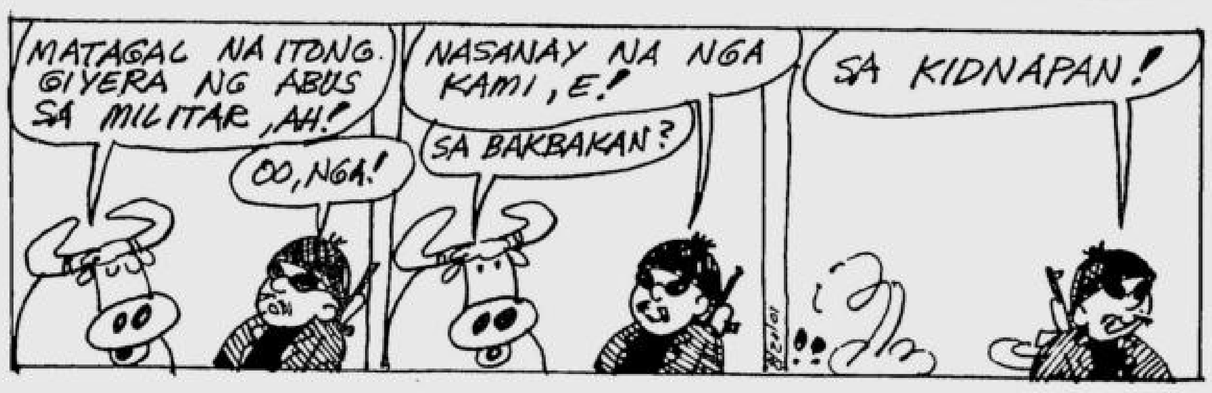
7/4/01

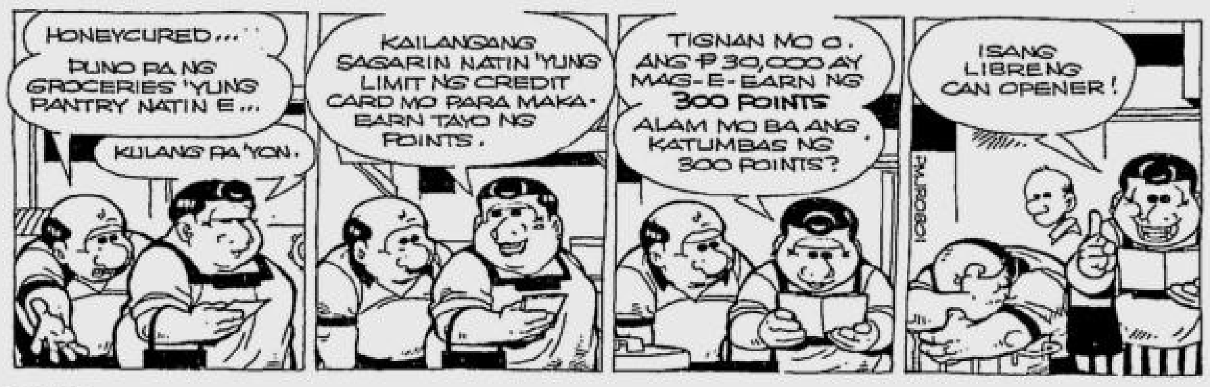
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MATAGAL NA ITONG GIYERA NG ABUS SA MILITAR, AH!
OO, NGA!
NASANAY NA NGA KAMI, E!
SA BAKBAKAN?
SA KIDNAPAN!

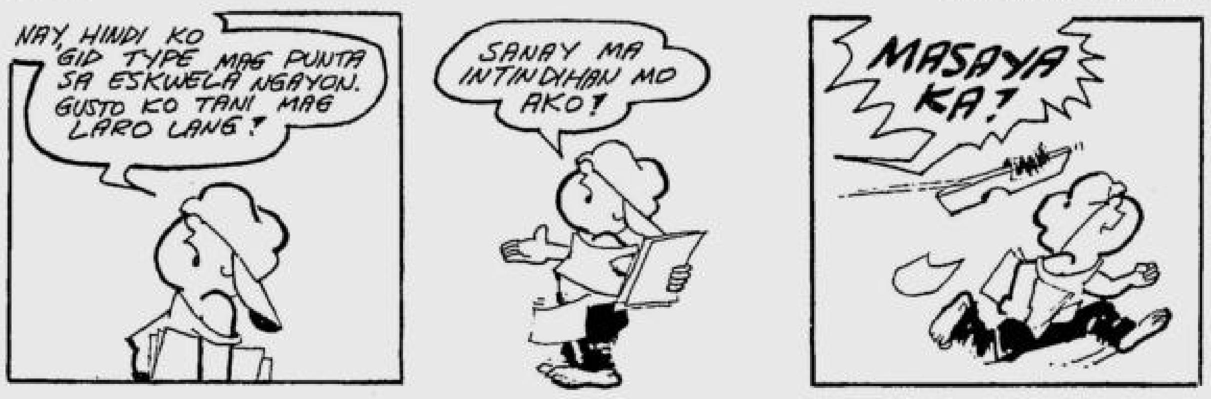
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HONEYCURED... PUNO PA NG GROCERIES 'YUNG PANTRY NATIN E...
KULANG PA 'YON.
KAILANGANG SAGARIN NATIN 'YUNG LIMIT NG CREDIT CARD MO PARA MAKA-EARN TAYO NG POINTS.
TIGNAN MO O. ANG ₱30,000 AY MAG-E-EARN NG 300 POINTS. ALAM MO BA ANG KATUMBAS NG 300 POINTS?
ISANG LIBRENG CAN OPENER!
PMJR0801

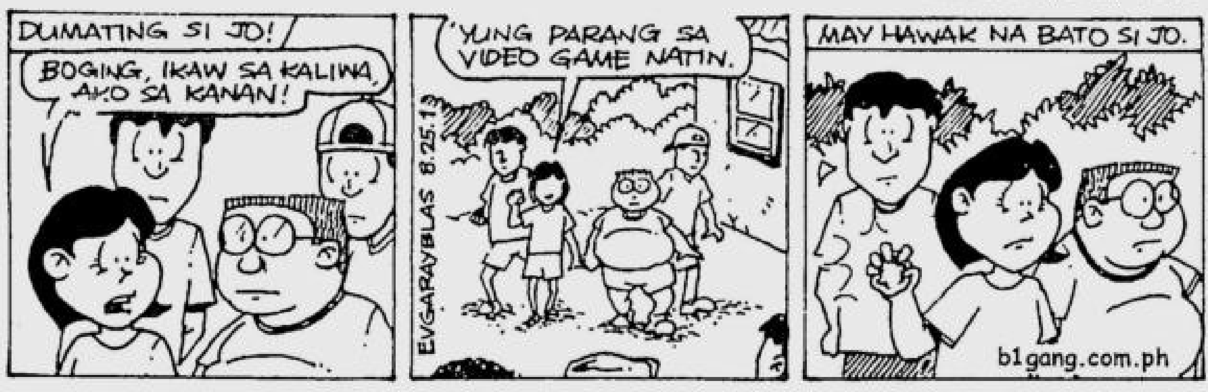
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY, HINDI KO GID TYPE MAG PUNTA SA ESKWELA NGAYON. GUSTO KO TANI MAG LARO LANG!
SANAY MA INTINDIHAN MO AKO!
MASAYA KA!

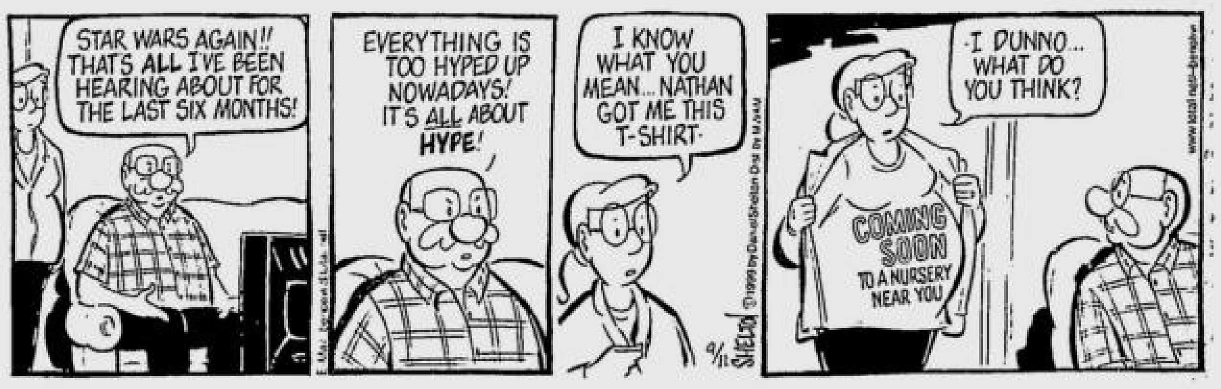
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


DUMATING SI JO!
BOGING, IKAW SA KALIWA, AKO SA KANAN!
'YUNG PARANG SA VIDEO GAME NATIN.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.25.1
MAY HAWAK NA BATO SI JO.
b1gang.com.ph

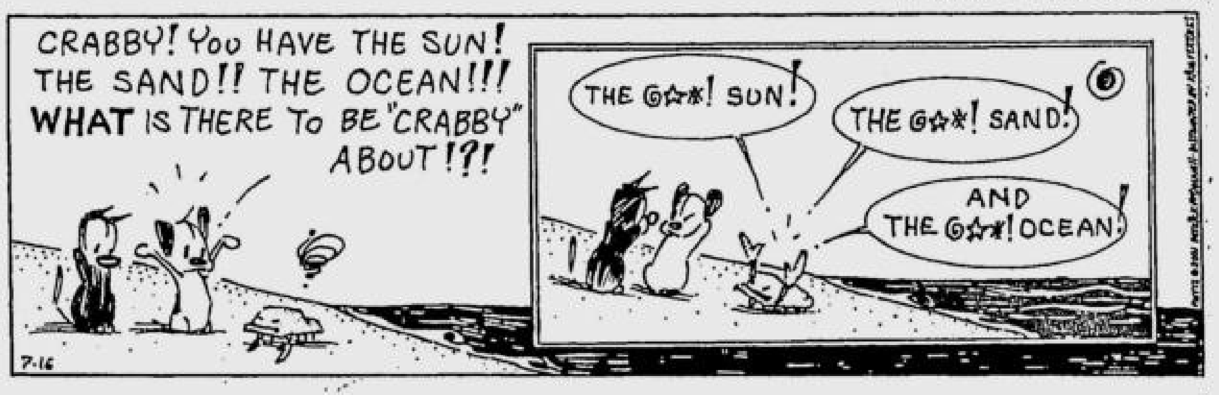
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


STAR WARS AGAIN!! THAT'S ALL I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS!
EVERYTHING IS TOO HYPED UP NOWADAYS! IT'S ALL ABOUT HYPE!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN... NATHAN GOT ME THIS T-SHIRT.
I DUNNO... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
COMING SOON TO A NURSERY NEAR YOU
SHELTON 9/11

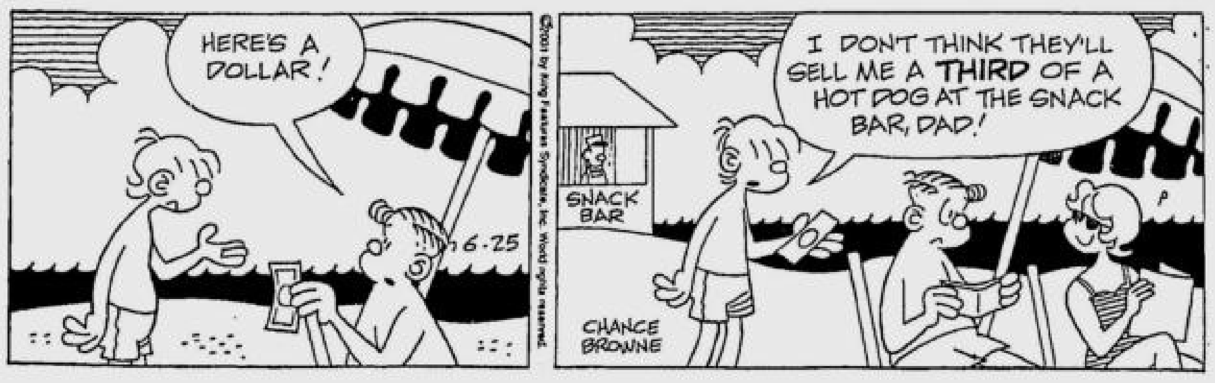
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


CRABBY! You HAVE THE SUN! THE SAND!! THE OCEAN!!! WHAT IS THERE To BE "CRABBY" ABOUT!?!
THE G☆*! SUN!
THE G☆*! SAND!
AND THE G☆*! OCEAN!
7-16

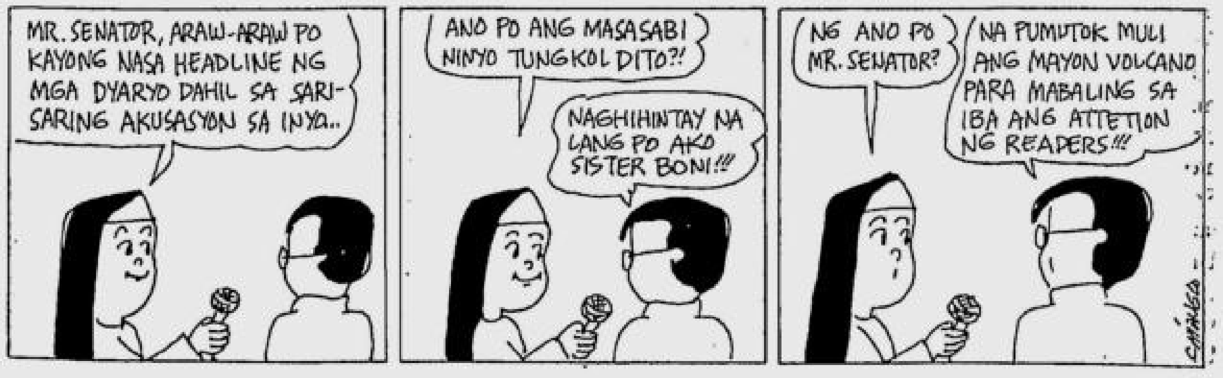
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


HERE'S A DOLLAR!
6-25
SNACK BAR
CHANCE BROWNE
I DON'T THINK THEY'LL SELL ME A THIRD OF A HOT DOG AT THE SNACK BAR, DAD!

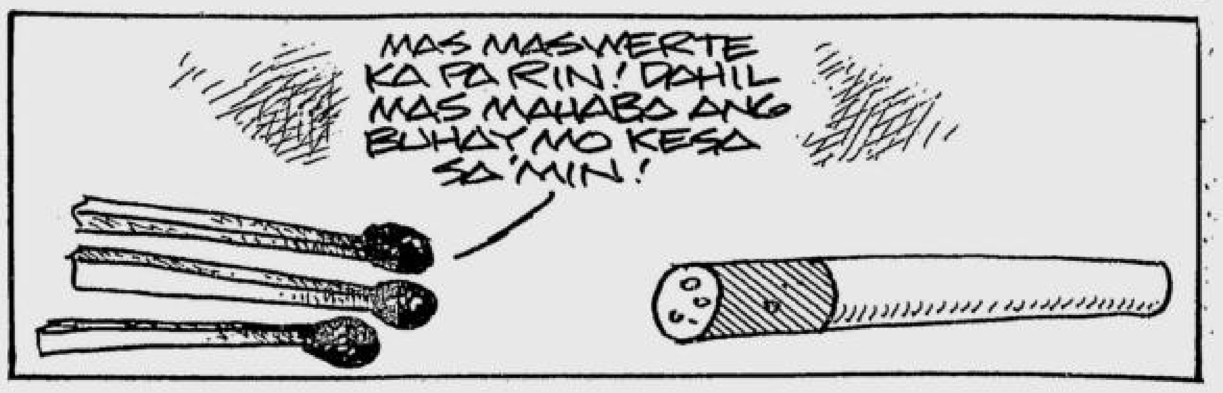
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

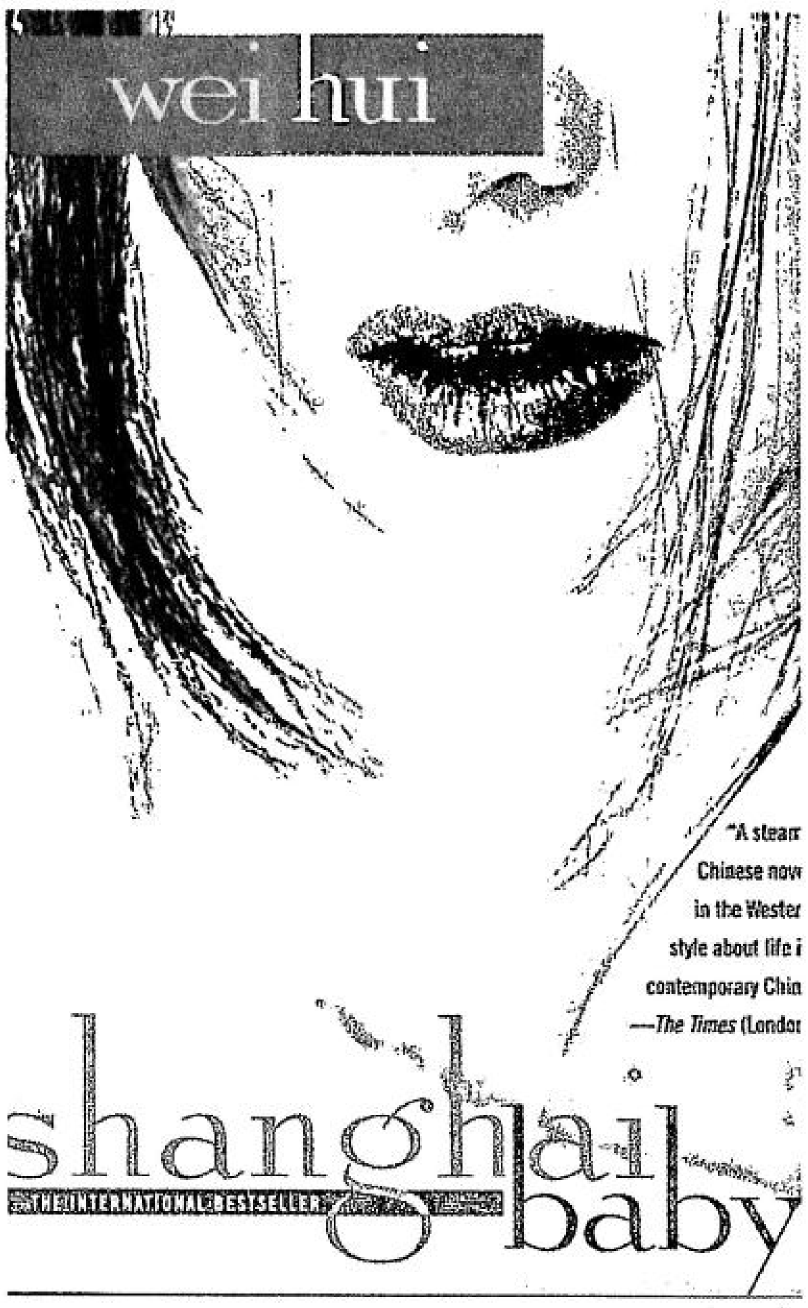

MR. SENATOR, ARAW-ARAW PO KAYONG NASA HEADLINE NG MGA DYARYO DAHIL SA SARI-SARING AKUSASYON SA INYO..
ANO PO ANG MASASABI NINYO TUNGKOL DITO?!
NAGHIHINTAY NA LANG PO AKO SISTER BONI!!!
NG ANO PO MR. SENATOR?
NA PUMUTOK MULI ANG MAYON VOLCANO PARA MABALING SA IBA ANG ATTETION NG READERS!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


MAS MASWERTE KA PA RIN! DAHIL MAS MAHABA ANG BUHAY MO KESA SA'MIN!

The sensuous side of Shanghai



REVIEW

"SHANGHAI Baby," PowerBooks' book of the month for August, is everything that the blurb on the front cover promises: "A steamy Chinese novel in the Western style about life in contemporary China." However, it is a lot more than just steamy; it is sensuous and sensate, provocative and provoking. By delivering sensuality in a blunt, matter-of-fact and generally forthright manner, it issues a challenge to those unencumbered enough to appreciate it, and a directive to those brave enough to live it.

To say that the novel takes place in modern-day Shanghai would be a gross understatement, for the novel is Shanghai. It is the story of a city and the generation it has produced—decadent, hedonistic, honest, unapologetic. Surprisingly, this depiction of Shanghai in a new materialistic age, drunk on its own prosperity, bears no resemblance to the pretty pictures in travel brochures or charming travelogues found in guidebooks. It is what it is: A melting pot of ancient traditions and new ideas.

What propels this story forward is the tension between its two main characters, Tian Tian and Coco, disparate creatures locked into a love affair that will leave you wondering. For our hero and heroine are almost completely antithetic to each other, with seemingly nothing in common but their fragile and quirky version of love. One chooses to participate fully and completely in life, indulging in a never-ending parade of pleasures of the flesh—food, drink, sex, music and art. The other chooses to die, drifting aimlessly from one day to the next and living vicariously through the experiences of others. The result is a relationship, which makes unfathomable sense, driven by a driving need to love and belong.

The book is peopled by a diverse group of supporting characters that add depth and reality to the story. Like our lovers Tian Tian and Coco, they are children of Shanghai, caught in the vise of two different worlds, searching for an identity all their own. Perhaps this is what makes "Shanghai Baby" such a compelling read: The sense of transformation and change that lies at the pulse of the city's children. Their struggle strikes a familiar chord. As we watch them searching for their identity in Esprit sweaters and trendy hangouts, we are reminded of experiences that are disturbingly similar.

The writing is powerful, yet simple enough for the novel to be an easy read. Written in the first person, it allows the reader a peek into the character's most private thoughts. The most innocuous statements often carry such significance that most of what really takes place lies in the subtext. Peppered liberally with profound truths disguised cleverly as conversation, it is all the more powerful by what it doesn't say.

"Shanghai Baby" is Wei Hui's first full-length novel, and the first to be published in English. It is a definite must, not only for those who wish to know more about living in Shanghai, but also for those who wish to know more about living.

Available at all PowerBooks and National Bookstore branches.

Katrina Ycasiano

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US-based Pinoy fictionist in literature-cinema forum at UST

UNITED States-based fictionist Paulino Lim Jr. will talk about point of view in cinema and literature on Aug. 22, 2 p.m., at the Center for Creative Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas, St. Raymund's (AB-Commerce) Building.

The lecture is the highlight of the sixth "Ustingan," a regular forum on literary and sundry issues sponsored by the CCWS. The forum will tackle "Literature in Film, Film in Literature."

Lim is the author of "Requiem for a Rebel Priest" and "Sparrows Don't Sing in the Philippines," published by New Day. His latest novel is "Ka Gaby, Nom de Guerre," also published by New Day.

Lim finished B.S.E. in English at the UST College of Education and M.A. English at the UST Graduate School. A former staffer of the UST Varsitarian, he finished his doctorate in Ucla. He is a professor at the California State University, Long Beach, where he used to head the English department. He is in the Philippines to handle a class at De La Salle University.

Also joining the forum are Centennial Literary Awards grand prizewinner Cirilo Bautista, Southeast Asia WRITE Award laureate Ophelia Dimalanta, and Joyce Arriola, chair of the Department of Communication Arts and Journalism of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters.

The public is invited. Call 731-3101, local 8281.

Book on Fil-Am war

BOOKMARK will launch "The Hills of Sampaloc: The Opening Actions of the Philippine-American War, Feb. 4-5, 1899" by Dr. Benito Legarda Jr. tonight at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Central Bank Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Malate, Manila.

"The Hills of Sampaloc" recounts the early hours of the Philippine-American War on the Sampaloc-Santa Mesa district in the eastern part of Manila. It is an extension of Dr. Legarda's article published in Mr. & Ms Magazine and Solidarity in February 1988 and reprinted in September 1998, which aimed to correct the historical neglect of the action at Balic-balic at the start of the war.

The narrative extends to the developments following the fighting, such as unsuccessful truce efforts, Aguinaldo's declaration of war, recriminations among the participants, critical comments by anti-imperialist Americans and Mabini's candid assessment of Filipino military capabilities.

Legarda has published over 60 local and foreign articles on economics, history, numismatics and colonial architecture. He graduated with a BS Social Science, magna cum laude, at Georgetown University (1948). He earned his doctorate in Economics at Harvard University (1955). He authored the book "After the Galleons" and is a trustee of the National Museum.

"The Hills of Sampaloc" is available at all Bookmark branches. It is also available at Filipino Bookstore (Glorietta, Shangri-La, Katipunan, Alabang Town Center, Malate and Davao City).

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Wanted: Leading man

By Luna Griño-Inocian

OF STAGE

WHEN Trumpets president Audie Gemora suggested I write an article about leading men in the Philippine theater industry, the title that immediately popped into my head was "Precious and Few." You may find it amusing but it is true—leading men are precious and few, especially in musical theater!

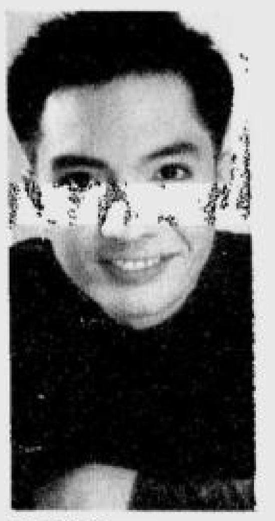
But you may protest, "But we do have a lot of very good leading men material!" Well, okay, let me rephrase that then. We do if you mean the lead player, the main man, the title role, the hero (or antihero) and the guy who bows last. We do have a dependable "supply" of Sweeney Todds, Valjeans, Phantoms, Pseudoluses, El Gallos, Henry Higgins and Tevyes. But ahhh, ask for the Anthonys, Mariuses, Raouls, Heros, Matts, Freddie Einsford Hills and Perchiks—and you can pretty much count them on the fingers of one hand. In other words, there is a dearth of romantic leads!

Why?

I can and will emphatically state that Philippine musical theater doesn't have very many of them floating around. Why is that?

Well, for one, they have to look good, ideally drop-dead gorgeous (great face, great hair, great bod), but at the very least, they must be pleasant to look at, charming and oozing with appeal!

Now handsome faces come a dime a dozen. Handsome faces that can act, dance and sing, however, are a different matter altogether. I mean, why else would Jaime Blanch have singularly and almost exclusively had the pleasure and privilege of singing love songs and whispering sweet nothings to sweet young things for 10 years now! Even the Audie, who has been dubbed King of Philippine Musical Theater, admits that he rarely got to play romantic leads when he was younger, and even then mostly by default (as in, they couldn't find anyone else).



NOEL Rayos

Let me tell you—finding Prince Charming material isn't easy! We held additions for the romantic lead in our production of "Little Mermaid" last year and, of the hundred men who showed up, we found only five worthy of the title! This year, although we remained on the lookout for possible Princes, no one came up to par with the two we found last year—Noel Rayos and Jeff Arcilla!

Since they are a rare, playing romantic lead obviously has its perks. I sat down with Noel and Jeff to find out what these advantages are.

The perks

Jeff: You always get the girl.

Noel: And you get to feel *guapo*.

Jeff: Except in "Little Mermaid," feeling *guapo ka pero* actually *ang pinupalakpakan nila 'yung* boat. But honestly, it's nice because you get to have a grand entrance and you get the best costume.

Noel: They really spend for your costume and, if you have an alternate, you get your own costume *pa*!

Jeff: Simple joys!

Noel: You get to play younger. I have played 18-year-olds and I'm playing a 21-year-old now!

Jeff: And you get to do swordfights... all your childhood fantasies come true!

Noel: You get a whole or half page in the program—depending on whether you have an alternate or not…

Jeff: And top billing on the poster!

Noel: When you're the lead, you usually don't dance or if you do, you usually just dance with the girl and then the chorus takes it away. But even if you're a bit off, it's okay because you're the leading man. Then they call it flair or bravura.

Jeff: You have more freedom to experiment, to do your own thing. Then the director can say whether it works or not. Either way, he gets to see your interpretation. Not like the chorus members are who directed to do this and that…

Noel: Yeah—*de numero*. There's also not too much pressure to fit in with the group. Usually the supporting actors adjust to fit you. Or the director tries to tailor the role according to your capabilities and or limitations.

Jeff: Yes, but the disadvantage of that is the ensemble gets to have all the fun. They have private jokes that sometimes you get left out. You don't know why they're laughing.

Noel: In the same way that although having your own nice private dressing room is a perk, it can also be a disadvantage. You miss out on all the jokes, the lunches and the picnics.

Jeff: That's why, we dress up early and go to the other rooms.

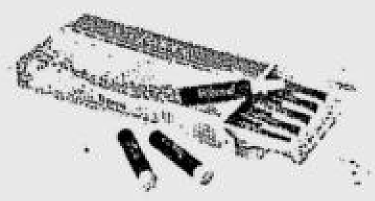
Leading ladies and kissing

Jeff: If your girlfriend is the jealous type, *patay*! *'Wag ka na lang mag*-romantic lead! *Lalo na magandq 'yung hahalikan mo—siyempre* leading lady *'yun e*!

Noel: When I joined Rep, I was 16, and I asked Jaime Blanch how many girls he had kissed and he answered, "I don't know anymore." And I said to myself, "Wow! I want to do that!" But after a while, it's nice to do other roles as well. You can't eat ham every day.

Jeff: Kissing can be a dangerous thing, too.

WANTED/ p.E3



Hair today, hair tomorrow

Man is a creature of habit. Through the years, we have developed a health routine for us to survive the ravages of time. However, sensitive and important parts of the body like our teeth and hair are the most affected by changes wrought by time. This is why cleaning our body and strengthening our health should be part of our daily routine.

To put it simply, our body ages with us. Some body functions don't perform as effectively as before and visiting the dentist twice a year ensures a stronger set in the future. To take care of our hair, we wash it daily and visit the parlor for hot oil treatments.

But the care we give our hair today may not be enough. Often, we start looking for ways of preserving it only when we start losing it. Our young age doesn't matter either. In fact, by the time we reach mid-20's, blood circulation slows down. And when this happens, the nutrients that our body needs are not easily absorbed.

Fortunately, preventive measures may now be taken to preserve hair vitality and strength. Like teeth, our hair can now go through a treatment we can do on our own. Foltène is the treatment for healthy hair. With Foltène, strengthening our hair is as easy as brushing teeth.

Foltène works as a hair conditioner. But unlike other conditioners that merely stay on the head surface, Foltène promotes heightened absorption of nutrients by hair follicles. This process leads to the growth of fuller, healthier and younger-looking hair. Making all these possible is Foltène's active ingredient, Trichosaccharide, a natural biological compound that helps you keep the hair you still have.

Foltène is so easy to apply. After shampooing, towel dry hair then apply Foltène directly to scalp. Do not rinse it off and do not shampoo for six hours to ensure the essential contact time. Use only one vial at a time. For those with excessive falling or thinning hair, undergo the attack and maintenance phase where you apply one vial every other day for 40 days (20 vials). While in the maintenance phase, use two vials per week for two to three months. For those suffering from dandruff, dry hair, split ends and oily or dry scalp, use two vials per week for three months to ensure healthier scalp. Resume the attack or maintenance cycle as needed to maintain healthy hair and scalp condition.

However, Foltène is not a miracle drug because there is no known cure for baldness. It does not promise to ressurect hair from a bald pate. What it does is work with the salvageable hair roots by stimulating blood circulation. And although it cannot bring back lost hair, it helps you prevent further hair loss and thinning of hair.

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